



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-081
Friday
26 April 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-081

CONTENTS

26 April 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Congress Condemns West, Iran, Turkey [Tripoli TV] 1

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Leaders in Moscow Discuss To Issues [Jerusalem AL-TALFAH 25 Apr] 1

Vow To 'Intensify Consultations' [Tunis Radio] 1

PLO Approves 26 Apr Meeting With Baker [Tunis Radio] 1

PLO Central Council Issues Resolution on Talks [Algiers VOP] 1

Three Arab States Said Seeking 'Arafat Ouster' [Cairo AL-WAFD 19 Apr] 5

'Arafat Offers 'Two-State Solution' to Israelis [Paris TV] 5

Source Alleges Meeting Between Fahd, Al-Hasan [Paris Radio Monte Carlo] 5

ARAB AFRICA

Libya

JANA Editor Condemns Israeli Settlements [Tripoli TV] 6

Egyptian Party Officials on Libyan Arab Position [Tripoli Radio] 6

Sudan

Interior Ministry To Train Police in Shari'ah [SUNA] 6

Al-Bashir Meets Libyan Official; Ties Viewed [SUNA] 7

Information Minister Returns From Italy, Ethiopia [SUNA] 7

Tunisia

Ben Ali's PRC Visit To Affect Economic Order [Tunis Radio] 7

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

UAE President Concludes Official Visit [WAKH] 8

Kuwait

Justice Official Announces War Crimes Trials [Radio Kuwait] 8

Saudi Arabia

Iran's Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah [SPA] 8

Discusses Refugees [Tehran Radio] 8

King Orders Establishment of Refugee Camp [Riyadh TV] 8

U.S. Support for European Peace Role Viewed [UKAZ 20 Apr] 9

IRAQ

Regime, Kurds, Opposition React to Agreement	10
5-Point Draft Accord Detailed [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Apr]	10
Hammadi on Accord, Weapons List [Amman Radio]	10
Hammadi Holds News Conference [INA]	11
Kurdish Radio on Talabani Remarks [Voice of the People of Kurdistan]	13
Comments on Accord With Baghdad [Voice of the People of Kurdistan]	13
Opposition on Kurds' 'Reservations' [Voice of Rebellious Iraq]	13
British Commandos Clash With Iraqi 'Police' [London PRESS ASSOCIATION]	14
Foreign Minister Asks UN To Assume Refugee Aid [INA]	14
Memo Alleges U.S. Allowed 'Robbery' of Firm [INA]	15
Saddam in Bayji; Gas Rationing To End 28 Apr [Baghdad Radio]	15
UN Commissioner Unveils Relief Centers Plan [Tokyo KYODO]	15
INA Updates Number of Returning Kurds 25 Apr	16
'Doors' Open for Ties With Arab States [INA]	16
Opposition on Al-Basrah, Al-'Amarah Attacks [Voice of Iraqi Opposition]	17
23 Said Executed in Al-'Amarah [Voice of Iraqi Opposition]	17
Further on Clashes [Voice of Rebellious Iraq]	17

ISRAEL

Reportage, Commentary on Baker Visit, Peace Plan	18
Peres Interviewed 24 Apr [Jerusalem TV]	18
Meridor: U.S. Using USSR as 'Lever' [Tel Aviv Radio]	20
Ben-Aharon on Baker's Chances [Tel Aviv TV]	20
Paper Pessimistic Over Baker's Trip [AL-SHAB 25 Apr]	22
Palestinian Views on Talks [Jerusalem Radio]	22
Ne'eman: 'Israel Did Its Best' [Jerusalem Radio]	22
Arens on 'Theatrical' Settlements [Jerusalem TV]	23
Settlement Timing 'Irrelevant' to Visit [Jerusalem Radio]	23
Stand on Regional Forum Remains Firm [Jerusalem Radio]	24
Ben-Aharon on Visit, Peace Prospects [Jerusalem Radio]	24
Levi, Baker Agree on Five Points [Tel Aviv Radio]	25
Further on Baker-Levi Meeting [Jerusalem Radio]	25
Palestinians Express 'Dismay' [Tel Aviv Radio]	26
Likud Leaders Criticize Agreements [Jerusalem Radio]	26
Shamir-Baker Talks Interrupted [Jerusalem Radio]	27
Arens Expresses 'Misgivings' [Jerusalem Radio]	27
Arens on Intentions of Arab Nations [Tel Aviv Radio]	27
Says Land for Peace Reminiscent of Hitler [Jerusalem Radio]	28
Gush Emunim Brings 6 Mobile Homes to Revava [Jerusalem Radio]	28
Revava Planned as 'Urban Settlement' [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 26 Apr]	28
USSR Ties, Bessmertnykh Visit Viewed [Jerusalem Radio]	28
Reportage on Plans for Water, Power Plants	29
Ne'eman on Plan for Locally Made Plant [Jerusalem Radio]	29
Talks With USSR on Nuclear Desalination [DAVAR 26 Apr]	29
Ne'eman Denies Talks on Soviet Reactor [Jerusalem Radio]	29

LEBANON

PSP Reportedly Begins To Hand Over Weapons	30
VOL Reports Transfer	30
Weapons Detailed [Beirut Radio]	30
Party Source Denies Transfer [VOL]	30
Dib Says Lebanese Forces Will Surrender Weapons [Beirut Radio]	30
Iranian Meets Al-Hirawi, Comments on Hostages [Voice of the Oppressed]	30
Fadlallah on Palestinian Weapons, Hostages [RFL]	30
Khaddam, Hizballah Review 'Resistance' to Israel [VOL]	31
Israeli Patrol Ambushed; Overflights Reported [RFL]	31
2 Killed, 3 Wounded in Southern Zone Explosion [VOL]	31
Hizballah Radio on Artillery Clashes Near Sidon [Voice of the Oppressed]	31

SYRIA

Commentary Rejects Compromise on Territories [Damascus Radio]	32
Paper Says U.S. Must Stop Supporting Israel [Damascus Radio]	32
Paper Comments on Dissolving Lebanese Militias [SANA]	33
Cooperation Viewed With Iranian Commerce Minister [SANA]	33

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Capture District in Ghowr Province [Islamabad Radio]	34
Mujahidin Government President Interviewed [Lahore THE NATION 25 April]	34

India

Congress-I Boycotts Punjab Polls, Parties React [Delhi Radio]	34
CPI-M Not To Join With Congress-I, BJP [Delhi Radio]	35
President Accepts Resignation of Ministers [Delhi Radio]	35
Workers Appeal for Release of Kidnapped Swedes [AFP]	35
Pakistan Accused of 'Internationalizing' Kashmir [Delhi Radio]	35

Iran

Velayati on 'Positive' Outcome of EC Talks [Tehran Radio]	36
Leaves for Saudi Arabia [Tehran Radio]	36
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Stresses Importance of Islam [Tehran Radio]	36
Talks With Envoy to Kuwait [Tehran TV]	37
Receives Turkish Official [Ankara TV]	37
Commentary Notes Kurdish Need for Guarantees [Tehran Radio]	37
Paper Says Kurdish-Iraqi Talks 'Mistake' [TEHRAN TIMES 22 Apr]	37
RESALAT Report on 12 Mar Majles Session [13 Mar]	38

Pakistan

Foreign Office Denies Hand in Afghan Affairs [THE MUSLIM 25 Apr]	42
Letter to UN Chief Condemns Afghan Scud Attack [Islamabad Radio]	43
Kashmir Premier 'Will Resist' Dismissal [AFP]	43
Four Killed in Artillery Shelling of Kashmir [Islamabad Radio]	43
Sharif Wants To Maintain U.S. Ties [Islamabad Radio]	43

Sri Lanka

'Massive Operation' Against LTTE in Jaffna [Delhi Radio]	44
Over 1,000 Tamils Reportedly Escape LTTE [Colombo International]	44

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Congress Condemns West, Iran, Turkey

LD2504220591 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The Arab People's Congress permanent secretariat has affirmed that what is happening today in Iraq is a return to the imperial West's direct colonization and control of the Arab Iraqi people's destiny.

In a statement issued today, the secretariat affirmed that U.S. imperialism and the West have used the Kurds' cause as a mere cover for implementing a hostile imperialist policy to harm Iraq. The statement condemned the Iranian stance, which attempts to exploit the Kurdish cause to improve its relations with the West and the U.S. and resume relations with it.

The statement also condemned the Turkey, which has allowed U.S. and Western forces use of Turkish territory to enter Arab areas in northern Iraq.

The statement called on Arab countries and pan-Arab organizations to condemn and denounce this blatant interference in the affairs of our homeland and nation—interference which has reached direct occupation of Arab lands in northern and southern Iraq—and also to make all efforts to confront the imperialist aggression.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Leaders in Moscow Discuss To Issues

TA2504135991 Jerusalem AL-TAL'AH in Arabic
25 Apr 91 pp 1, 11

[By AL-TAL'AH correspondent in Cyprus]

[Text] Informed sources in Tunis have said the Palestinian delegation's visit to Moscow was a result of an urgent request by Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, who wished to understand the Palestinian position on the proposed issues before meeting his U.S. counterpart, James Baker.

News agencies reported the PLO delegates as: Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, Sulayman al-Najjab, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

These sources added the delegation carried a message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to the Soviet leadership.

The sources affirmed the Soviet Union will discuss with the Palestinian side the restoration of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel in light of the Israeli condition that Israel will consent to Soviet participation in the regional conference in return for the renewal of ties. The sources added that James Baker may have prepared a statement on U.S.-Soviet sponsorship of the conference, accompanied by another statement on the restoration of Soviet-Israeli relations.

Vow To 'Intensify Consultations'

LD2604041191 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Wafa [Palestinian news agency] reported this evening that the Palestinian delegation currently visiting Moscow has agreed with the Soviets to continue and intensify consultations, particularly during this period when efforts to start the Middle East peace process have entered a vital, active phase. The agency added that the delegation's visit, led by Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, coincided with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to the USSR. [passage omitted]

PLO Approves 26 Apr Meeting With Baker

LD2604040691 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The PLO has decided to approve a new meeting between a number of Palestinian personalities in the occupied territories and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. In a statement broadcast by Wafa [Palestinian news agency] this evening, a PLO spokesman pointed out that the meeting would take place on Friday. He affirmed that the national personalities would confirm to the U.S. secretary of state the constant factors of the Palestinian position pointed out by the Central Council during its recent session in Tunis.

PLO Central Council Issues Resolution on Talks

LD2604061191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Statement by the PLO Central Council issued in Tunis on 23 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Our Arab nation is facing historic challenges which seriously threaten its aspirations and pan-Arab security as the United States tries, with its new regime, to control the destiny of the Arab nation and attempts to continue dependence, division, and backwardness and ('eliminate) any hope of our nation uniting, being liberated, or recovering Palestine and Holy Jerusalem from the claws of occupation. All this forces the Arab nation to face this imminent danger and makes it incumbent on the Arab states and their peoples to work seriously for Arab solidarity and the return of [word indistinct] the Arab League and its institutions to assume its pan-Arab role in this fateful circumstance.

The Gulf crisis has unveiled the great dangers facing the Arab nation in the new world order and has revealed the extent of the dire Arab need to establish Arab relations firmly on fraternal principles and foundations. These principles and foundations are strong and firm and protect the unity of the Arab house and define the limits of its relations with the international forces to spare the nation the dangers of foreign interference in Arab internal affairs. The hard blow which hit the Arab nation will have destructive effects on our pan-Arab future if

our Arab nation, with all its forces, is not aware of the situation and does not attempt to contain what took place, with a fraternal spirit and a penetrating view of the future.

The PLO, aware of its Arab role and the dangers surrounding our nation and the cause of our Palestinian people, urges the Arab brothers to turn the page of the past, with all its wounds and pains, and open a new fraternal leaf based on solidarity, fraternity, and the common pan-Arab destiny. The PLO always has endeavored to settle Arab conflicts without foreign interference, and because the Gulf crisis was between Iraq and Kuwait, the PLO called for its solution within the Arab framework. Furthermore, the Palestinian leadership—and personally its head, brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine—contributed to continuous efforts for an Arab solution to the crisis. To achieve this, it launched serious initiatives based on Arab and international legitimacy to spare our Arab nation the calamities of war, destruction, and foreign intervention and safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the Gulf states based on fraternity and Arab solidarity.

The resolutions and recommendations of the Central Council:

First, on the Palestinian level: In light of the resolutions proposed by brother Abu-'Ammar, president of the state of Palestine, and brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the Political Department, the great contributions of the other members of the Palestinian leadership and the brothers in the council, the latter stresses the paramount importance of furthering our people's struggle and their brave resistance and escalating the blessed uprising to end Israel's occupation and achieve freedom and national independence. After debates and discussions, the council announced the following:

The council expresses pride and solicitude for the role the blessed uprising and our steadfast masses have played in confronting Israeli occupation and resisting its crimes, repression, and terrorism. The Central Council urges directing all resources and means to support the uprising and strengthen the steadfastness of our masses so they may continue their resistance to Israeli occupation. The road of the uprising is the path to independence and victory.

The Central Council hails the national stand expressed by our masses with all their forces and national institutions, who rallied around the leader of their struggle—namely the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—and who persevered with pertinacity to wrest our inalienable rights, including the right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of our independent state with Holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The Central Council urges strengthening the role of the unified national leadership and all the national bodies and institutions and increasing the number of its cadres to ensure participation by all representatives of all our

people and their national figures in the intifadah. It also calls for promoting the role of mass organizations and for their unification.

The Central Council urges developing all forms of care and support for the families of martyrs, detainees, and the injured, and the broadening and promotion of social and national solidarity. It extends special greetings to our heroic sons who are standing fast inside the jails of occupation and its detention camps.

The council also calls for strengthening of the role of strike forces in serving the our people's interests, watching over their security and protecting them.

The council affirms the stand of our Palestinian people and our Arab nation in rejecting the policy of displacement and settlement and their determination to continue to oppose it and confront it, because it is an imminent danger threatening the existence of our people and their future and the security of the entire Arab nation. This policy also constitutes a blatant violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN resolutions.

The Central Council calls on the Executive Committee to act at all levels to confront the Zionist settlement threat, the emigration of the Soviet Jews and others to our occupied land, and all other Judaization measures.

In view of the imminent danger to the holy city of Jerusalem, particularly the intensive Judaization and colonization operations resulting from the new Jewish emigration and the insistence of Israel and its allies that Jerusalem be excluded from any future settlement, the Central Council urges the Arab and Islamic summits and the Jerusalem Committee to act immediately to confront the serious Israeli conspiracy over the city of Jerusalem and Muslim and Christian holy places. It asks this especially because legitimate international UN Resolutions 252, 465, 478, and other international resolutions stress the Arabism of Jerusalem and reject its annexation or Judaization.

The Central Council stresses the importance of bolstering our people's steadfastness in the occupied territories, building the Palestinian national economy, preparing economic development plans in all sectors, and providing jobs for our people, which should be done through coordination with the leadership bodies in the occupied territories, mass organizations, chambers of commerce, industry, agriculture, and health and medical institutions.

The council condemns the Israeli occupation authorities' measures against educational and cultural institutions and bodies to deprive our people of education and spread illiteracy. It calls on the Executive Committee to move with Arab and international institutions and bodies to stop this Israeli policy, which violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Central Council stresses the importance of continuing measures which ensure furthering the role of the

PLO and its machinery and steers it toward serving the interests and rights of our Palestinian people inside and outside the homeland.

The council expressed the importance of widening democratic contributions from all groups, forces, and national personalities to strengthen national unity, and it calls on all forces to protect this unity and widen their effective participation in PLO institutions. The council welcomes all calls and initiatives seeking to strengthen this unionist, patriotic trend.

The Central Council urges speedy measures to protect the security and interests of our Palestinian people in Kuwait and that all excesses and violations be stopped. It sincerely desires to preserve the fraternal ties of the Palestinian and Kuwaiti peoples. The council calls on the Kuwaiti Government to provide all security and protection for our people in fraternal Kuwait.

Second, on the Arab level, the Central Council calls, now that Iraqi forces are completely withdrawn from Kuwait, for an end to the Gulf war consequences and that the spirit of reconciliation, fraternity, and forgiveness prevail. It also calls for speedy withdrawal of foreign forces to safeguard pan-Arab security and all that protects and strengthens the ties of Arab fraternity.

The Central Council affirms the unity and safety of Iraqi national soil. It calls for lifting the economic blockade and ending the war of starvation, and it condemns the intervention to which the fraternal people of Iraq are exposed. They should be aided in these difficult circumstances, which would enable Iraq to solve its problems without any external interference, based on historic Arab-Kurdish brotherhood. Arab Red Crescent societies and other humanitarian institutions immediately should help Arab and Kurdish Iraqis.

The Central Council calls on the Arab League, now that it has returned to Cairo, to carry out its pan-Arab role to restore Arab solidarity. The council also urges the PLO Executive Committee to continue its efforts at the Arab level to reconcile the sons of our glorious Arab nation under these fateful circumstances.

The Central Council also welcomes the reunion of the Arab fold during the recent Arab League meeting in Cairo as a step on the road toward unifying the destiny of the Arab brothers. It calls on the joint Arab Defense Council to shoulder its responsibilities regarding the UN Security Council resolution on nonconventional Iraqi weapons. These weapons are required to be destroyed, and it should intervene at the United Nations to put these weapons under its control, as well as the control of the UN Security Council, until Israel complies by destroying its nonconventional weapons. This is to safeguard pan-Arab security and the strategic balance with Israel.

The Central Council calls for an urgent five-sided Arab conference including the Arab states directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and its central issue, the

Palestinian-Israeli conflict—namely Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan—to coordinate and unify the position on issues that concern resolutions by Arab and international legitimacy.

The Central Council affirms its adherence to the Palestinian peace initiative declared in 1988 and the resolutions by Arab summits and international legitimacy dealing with various international projects and initiatives. Proceeding from this, the council renews its commitment to the positive and effective participation in all political efforts and to work for mustering the broadest forces at the Arab and international levels toward correcting the political course for solving the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict with whatever is in harmony with those resolutions.

In this connection, the council affirms the need to convene the international peace conference with the participation of all concerned, including the PLO and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and under the supervision of the UN. It rejects any regional or nonregional conference not based on this international legitimacy.

Proceeding from the resolutions of the Palestine National Council, the Central Council affirms the fraternal and distinguished relations between the fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. The council expresses the need to strengthen these fraternal ties. It calls for continued coordination of efforts by the Jordanian Government and the PLO in all fields.

The Central Council welcomes steps which seek a final end to the Lebanese crisis, including extending state sovereignty to all Lebanese territory and ending the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425. The council expresses the PLO's readiness to participate constructively, positively, and fraternally in efforts aimed at realizing this objective to safeguard Lebanese-Palestinian fraternity and provide security and protection for our Palestinian camps from the continuing Israeli aggression and to ensure that our sons enjoy their political, militant, and cultural rights through Lebanese sovereignty. The council also affirms that the PLO Executive Committee should open a dialogue with the Lebanese Government to achieve this. The council expresses its hope and confidence that the leaders of the al-Ta'if meeting will cooperate with the Syrian and Lebanese leaderships in these good efforts.

Because of the link between emigration, deportation, and the seizure of land and the establishment of colonialization settlements and Israel's plans to steal Arab water, the Central Council calls for forming a joint body made up of Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon to prepare plans which ensure safeguarding Arab interests, particularly water resources.

The Central Council salutes our masses and our Arab nation and its dynamic forces, which stood and still stand firmly alongside our Palestinian people, their

revolution, and their blessed uprising. It urges the forces to continue their support for our people's struggle and their uprising, particularly in confronting the physical blockade under which they are suffering. The council also calls for efforts to help our people and Arab nation confront the fateful challenges which we all are facing.

Third, on the international level, the Central Council urges the UN Security Council to take immediate steps to provide security and protection for our Palestinian people, who are under Israeli occupation, in preparation for ending this occupation and implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy which concern our people exercising their rights to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state.

The council affirms the need for the UN secretary general to invite the states that signed the Fourth Geneva Convention to implement this convention in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution which concerns it, and that they lay down the bases and compulsory measures to stop construction of settlements and the Judaization of holy Jerusalem, the annexation measures, land seizure, and the violation of sacred Islamic and Christian shrines.

The Central Council calls on the UNSC to adopt one standard toward international issues and to reject double standards and dismembering of the resolutions by international legitimacy concerning our Palestinian people, particularly when the UN Security Council today is facing a challenge to its credibility over the manner in which it applies its resolutions concerning Palestine, the Golan, and south Lebanon after the Gulf war events.

The council affirms the special responsibility of the United States concerning continuing Israeli violations of international legitimacy and its resolutions which concern the rights of the Palestinian people. The Central Council considers that the declaration by U.S. President George Bush on 7 March 1991 and the important elements it contained need actual implementation and a commitment by the United States to adopt the bases contained in that speech, along with the other resolutions by international legitimacy, as a basis for the international peace conference.

The council expresses its appreciation for the stand of the European states, particularly the declaration by French President Francois Mitterrand adhering to the bases of international legitimacy and respect for the independence of the Palestinian representation through the PLO and his call for convening a summit of the UN Security Council.

The council calls on European states to cooperation and coordinate further in various fields to provide suitable conditions for convening an international peace conference based on international legitimacy. The council also affirms the need and importance of the effective participation of the EC in this conference.

The Central Council appreciates the attitudes of the Soviet Union and the PRC toward supporting the Palestinian national rights and supporting the PLO, and also the attitudes of Japan. It affirms the need to adhere to international legitimacy when dealing with the Palestinian issue. It affirms the importance of developing the relations with whatever serves these aims and international security.

The council also salutes the friendly states that supported the issue of our people at the UN Security Council.

The Central Council calls for increasing coordination and interaction with the nonaligned community of states, African states, and the Islamic Conference Organization based on their principles and unchanging attitudes of supporting our people and their just cause. The council highly appreciates the attitudes of these fraternal and friendly states.

The council appreciates the attitude of his holiness the pope and the Vatican toward the just cause of our people, also the attitudes of the firm Christian and Islamic leaderships toward the Palestinian people and their inalienable national rights.

In support for Palestinian democracy and national unity, and in an endeavor to enlist the participation of all forces and personalities in the coming national council, the Central Council studied the arrangements concerning holding the coming council session. It recommended to the Executive Committee and the council Presidium to follow up the work of the preparatory committee of the Palestine National Council and to work in accordance with these trends for holding the assembly as soon as possible.

While expressing salutation and appreciation for the role and stands of the Tunisian people and their struggle President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in supporting the Palestinian people in all areas, the Central Council stresses the great role of the Arab Maghreb countries and their principled, firm, and lasting support for the struggle of our Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, as expressed at the recent Maghreb summit in brotherly Libya which manifested the importance of the Maghrebian role as a major, effective upholder of Arab solidarity and a protector of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. In that context, the council salutes the Libyan Jamahiriyyah and its leader for the support it has been giving our blessed intifadah.

The council urges sisterly Arab countries to fulfill their commitments to the PLO, our martyrs, and our intifadah in accordance with Arab summit resolutions.

Glory and immortality to our pious martyrs. It is a revolution until victory.

Three Arab States Said Seeking 'Arafat Ouster

PM2504110391 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
19 Apr 91 pp 1-2

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar: "Arab Pressure on Palestinian Organizations To Dismiss 'Arafat, Egyptian-Palestinian Contacts on New U.S. Peace Proposals"]

[Text] Some Palestinian factions are coming under intense pressure from certain Arab regimes to oust Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and elect an alternative leadership for the PLO. AL-WAFD has learned that three big Arab states have recently held contacts with elements opposed to 'Arafat, aiming to nominate an alternative leadership. The three capitals favor Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan to succeed 'Arafat as PLO chairman because he is regarded as a moderate.

PLO Executive Committee member Jamil al-Surani has confirmed to AL-WAFD that the question of changing the PLO leadership is an internal Palestinian matter that can only be determined by the Palestinians. He said the Palestine Central Council, scheduled to meet in Tunis tomorrow, will discuss all Arab and Palestinian developments, as well as the escalation of the people's intifadah in the occupied Arab territories. Al-Surani left Cairo yesterday for the Tunis meeting.

AL-WAFD has learned a Palestinian delegation headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, recently visited Cairo at the Egyptian Government's invitation to discuss the latest developments related to the Palestinian question and the new

U.S. proposals for a settlement. The Palestinian delegation also discussed the future of Egyptian-Palestinian ties.

'Arafat Offers 'Two-State Solution' to Israelis

LD2504155191 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network
in French 1100 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The Palestinians have rejected the idea of a regional conference unless it considers the UN Security Council resolutions on Palestine. At the same time, however, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is stretching out his hand to the Israelis. He said he is ready for peace, ready to hold discussions with Yitzhaq Shamir without preconditions. He said this on FR3 yesterday evening:

[Begin 'Arafat recording in English with superimposed French translation] I am repeating my slogan: Peace for all of us, for them and for our people. A two-state solution is what we are offering them, but their leaders have rejected this. Their leaders still dream of Greater Israel. [end recording]

Source Alleges Meeting Between Fahd, Al-Hasan

JN2504183491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] In Tunis today, a Palestinian official who asked to remain anonymous said that Saudi King Fahd recently received Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member, and assured him that the Palestinian issue continues to be a top priority for Saudi diplomacy.

If the meeting actually took place, it would be the first contact between the PLO and Saudi Arabia since their relations deteriorated in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Libya

JANA Editor Condemns Israeli Settlements

LD2504225991 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Commentary by JANA Arab affairs editor]

[Excerpts] The Zionist enemy continues its violation of the articles of the Camp David agreements related to banning the establishment of Zionist settlements in the occupied Arab territories. The Zionist terrorist Ari'el Sharon affirmed that the Israelis built, and will build today and tomorrow, settlements in occupied Palestine.

Sharon, who was talking to representatives of a Canadian Jewish organization, added that terrorist Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir pointed out that the building of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will continue because there is no connection between that and peace, or no peace.

The terrorist Ari'el Sharon then pointed to the visit of the U.S. secretary of state to occupied Palestine. He said: We welcome Baker, but will not receive any lesson from anyone on peace. He said that the building of settlements is necessary for what he called the security of Israelis, because they supplied them with a strategic depth. Thus, the Zionists reaffirm their blatant challenge to the resolutions of the international community as they announce daily their expansionist intentions at the expense of the Arab land and the Arab people by building more Zionist settlements to house hundreds of thousands of Zionist emigrants who come from the various parts of the world. This falls within the framework of their hostile plan aimed at consecrating their occupation of Arab lands and establishing their (so-called) state.

The JANA Arab affairs editor affirmed that what is taking place since the Gulf crisis is an attempt to eliminate the Palestinian cause and to turn it into a cause of refugees. [passage omitted]

The JANA Arab affairs editor asks: Why does the UN Security Council not respect its resolutions or implement them, even by force, on the Israelis, with the same enthusiasm and impetuosity with which it implemented its (similar) resolutions on the Iraqi regime when it occupied Kuwait?

The JANA editor called on all free states to hurry in calling on the UN Security Council to convene immediately to decide on the use of force against the Israelis to force them not to set up new settlements in the Arab territories, and to force the Israelis to withdraw from the Arab territories, from which the UN Security Council previously decided they should withdraw.

Will the world respond to this call?

Egyptian Party Officials on Libyan Arab Position

LD2504063291 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received a delegation of Egyptian parties consisting of delegates from the National Democratic Party, the Liberals Party, the Socialist Work Party, and the al-Wafd Party, who are in Libya to attend the meetings of the basic people's congresses. The meeting was attended by the secretary for people's conferences of the General People's Congress Secretariat and the secretary of the Tripoli Municipality People's Conference.

Following the meeting they sent a cable to the brother leader of the revolution in which they said: Brother Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi, the great leader of the 1 September revolution, heads and members of the delegations of the Egyptian parties—the National Democratic Party, the Liberals Party, the Socialist Work Party, and the al-Wafd Party, which accepted the invitation to attend the basic people's congresses in the great Jamahiriyah, had the honor of meeting with you and the opportunity to have a dialogue with you. We express to your revered person our utmost gratitude and appreciation and bless all the national and pan-Arab steps that were most sincerely taken by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, together with you in a manner which realizes for the Arab people in Egypt, Libya, and throughout the Arab nation, all the progress they aspire on the road to greater Arab unity. We pray to God Almighty to guide your steps. We hope to meet with you always on all matters of good, progress, and prosperity. God is great. Long live greater Arab unity. [Signed] Fu'ad Abu Zaghlal, head of the National Democratic Party delegation

Mustafa Kamil Murad, head of the Liberals Party delegation

Ahmad Mujahid, head of the Socialist Work Party delegation

'Abd-al-Mun'im Husyan, head of the al-Wafd Party delegation

Sudan

Interior Ministry To Train Police in Shari'ah

E12504110191 Khartoum SUNA in English 0939 GMT
24 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Apr (SUNA)—Deputy-chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] and Interior Minister Maj-Gen al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih has announced that the curricula of police will be reconsidered to cope with the rules of Shari'ah laws. While inspecting the various sections of police in Khartoum yesterday, Maj-Gen Salih affirmed that his ministry will give top priority to training and qualification of police.

Al-Bashir Meets Libyan Official; Ties Viewed

EA2504105191 Khartoum SUNA in English 0638 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Apr (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Gen Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir met here yesterday the secretary of the Libya brotherhood office to Khartoum, Ramadan Bashir. The meeting focused on means for boosting bilateral relations in all fields.

Information Minister Returns From Italy, Ethiopia

EA2504104791 Khartoum SUNA in English 0631 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Apr (SUNA)—Culture and Information Minister Abdullah Muhammad Ahmad returned here last Monday [22 April] concluding a several-day working visit to Italy and Ethiopia. Ahmad told SUNA that he met while in Rome with the Italian foreign undersecretary and the number two man responsible for foreign affairs at the Vatican, Cardinal Tschilly, besides the deputy speaker of the European Parliament. The meeting focussed on Sudan relations with Italy and the Vatican, and the EEC countries and Italian aid to Sudan. The application of Islamic laws in Sudan and guarantees for non-Muslims through federalism and the government peace efforts were also tackled during the talks, the minister said.

During his stopover in Addis Ababa, Ahmad said, he followed the Ethiopian parliament deliberations on the recent statement by President Mengistu and got acquainted with current developments in the Horn of Africa.

Tunisia**Ben Ali's PRC Visit To Affect Economic Order**

LD2504103691 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali begins a state visit to the PRC today. The visit reflects the depth of the friendly relations and constructive cooperation between the two countries. It should also contribute positively and effectively to the formation of future bilateral relations between the two countries, thereby enabling them to develop a strong foundation, particularly as our world today has been characterized with a change in political and economic concepts. There is thus

no survival or continuation for other than the firm and the strong. [passage omitted]

Tunisia, in its new era, believes strongly in the advantages of cooperation among countries of the South within the framework of openness to the outside world. This type of cooperation alone is what will make it possible to change the current international economic order, from which the developing countries are greatly suffering because it makes them poorer and widens the gap between them and those of the countries of the North, which monopolize wealth and refuse to abandon the policy of protectiveness.

All this has led to the creation of numerous negative aspects, a fact which makes it incumbent on the countries of the South, now more than at any time in the past, to further their cooperation and close their ranks and coordinate their stands to safeguard their interests and form one bloc in the face of the other bloc.

When the dialogue becomes equal, the current deterioration in the world economic order will, naturally, begin to disappear, and the countries of the North will be forced to accept a fait accompli and thereby revise their stands toward many of the issues that determine their relations with the countries of the South.

In this way, justice and fairness will replace injustice and selfishness in the dealings between the two sides. Perhaps the Arab Maghrib Union [UMA] provides the best proof of this. The UMA is now an organization to be reckoned with on all levels: Arab, Western, and international.

All of us still remember the positive initiatives taken by the UMA, whether in terms of defining the economic relations with the EC or in terms of finding solutions for the numerous issues and problems.

It is within the framework of the belief in the usefulness of the South-South cooperation as being the future guarantee for the elimination of all imbalances in the international economic order, that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is now visiting the PRC. The positive results of the visit will bring good, not only to the two countries alone, but also to all UMA member countries collectively.

These results will become an example to be followed by the other Southern countries because South-South cooperation is the only thing that can guarantee justice and equality in the new world economic order.

We do not want the countries of the South to miss this opportunity, as they missed many other opportunities in the past.

Bahrain

UAE President Concludes Official Visit

LD2504101401 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT
25 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayed Bin-Sultan Al Nahayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], left Manama for Doha this morning after an official two-day visit to Bahrain, which was part of a tour to the Gulf Cooperation Council member states. [parag. omitted]

Kuwait

Justice Official Announces War Crimes Trials

LD25041501501 (Clandestine) Radio-Kuwait
in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Mr 'Abd al-Aziz al-Dukhil, undersecretary of the Justice and Legal Affairs Ministry and chairman of the Kuwaiti Committee for Human Rights, stated that 628 people of various nationalities will be tried as war criminals during the coming weeks.

He said that representatives from some international organizations and mass media will be invited to attend public sittings of these trials. In a statement to the Qatari AL-SHATQ published today, al-Dukhil stressed that the Kuwaiti law allows foreign lawyers to act as defense counselors before Kuwaiti courts once they obtain permission from the justice minister.

Saudi Arabia

Iran's Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD2504155891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT
25 Apr 91

[Text] Jeddah, 25 April, SPA—Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, his excellency the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Jeddah today, Thursday.

His excellency was met at King 'Abd-al-Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, Salam Sanbul, director general at the Foreign Ministry section in Jeddah, Ambassador Ahmad Muhammad Mu'minah, director of the general department for Asian affairs at the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Mohammed Faramand, the Iranian charge d'affaires in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and a number of other officials.

Discusses Refugees

LD250414701 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran Farsi Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT
26 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who is in Jeddah at the head of a delegation paying an official visit to Saudi Arabia, held a first round of talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal yesterday afternoon. During this round, which lasted two hours, Mr. Velayati thanked the Saudi Government for its hospitality. He noted the things the two countries have in common and stated that a new chapter has been opened in Iranian-Saudi relations.

Referring to the problems faced by the Iraqi refugees and the Islamic Republic's assistance to them, he said that in view of their large numbers, assistance from foreign countries has been minimal and the refugees urgently require further aid from other countries and international organizations. Pointing to the need to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity, our foreign minister added that the refugees should be able to return to their homes.

Welcoming the Iranian delegation, Mr. Sa'ud al-Faysal said: Your visit at this time is a historic one and places the two countries before a historic touchstone. Expressing optimism over the future of Iranian-Saudi relations, he emphasized the need for them to be strengthened.

The Saudi foreign minister stressed the need for the two countries to cooperate in international forums and organizations and stated: On the international scene, Saudi Arabia considers itself on the same side as Iran. In conclusion, he expressed the hope of visiting Iran in the near future when the appropriate opportunity arose.

During their talks, the foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia discussed practical ways to expand Iranian-Saudi relations in various fields and to develop bilateral cooperation in international forums and organizations, especially the Islamic Conference Organization and OPEC.

King Orders Establishment of Refugee Camp

LD2504201701 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, has ordered that a big camp designed to shelter Iraqi refugees be established near Raiba'. This has been announced by His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces. His highness said in a press statement in Riyadh that the signing of the contract for the establishment of this camp has in fact begun. It is expected that it will be ready within the next two weeks. He indicated that the camp will be equipped with all services and facilities, such as accommodations, health care, food,

and a water supply, funded by the custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

His highness denied that there are Iraqi soldiers among the refugees and stressed that the majority consists of women, children, and old people. Asked about the number of refugees, he said that it would be difficult to give a definite, precise idea of their number, but it is approximately between 7,000 and 8,000 refugees.

In reply to a question concerning the refugees in Safwan, his highness the commander of the joint forces said that the instructions of the government are frank and clear. They stipulate the preparation of the appropriate conditions for the reception of the refugees and homeless people on the borders and their welcome in special camps. Safwan is one of these regions, and refugees will be transferred there in the near future.

U.S. Support for European Peace Role Viewed

PM2404101691 Jeddah UKAZ in Arabic
20 Apr 91 p 3

[Article by political editor: "Baker's Third Tour A Practical Test For Regional Conference Idea Before Bush's Tour"]

[Excerpts] Three new developments have occurred regarding peace efforts in the Middle East and characterize James Baker's third tour in less than six weeks. These developments will, of course, affect the results of this tour in many respects.

The first of these developments is the U.S. agreement to direct European participation in peace efforts. After his talks in Europe and before starting his third tour of the region, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker announced his country's agreement to Europe's participation in peace efforts in the Middle East. It was reported that that this participation could take the form of direct participation by the EC presidency in the proposed regional peace conference on peace in the Middle East.

Although this is a positive development that brings the proposed regional conference close to the international conference idea, secures full international guarantees for talks, bolsters peace efforts, and realizes Europe's wish to participate—an Arab demand as well—it is expected to annoy Israel and cause it to oppose it, because it is seeking an excuse to destroy peace efforts. This is in addition to Israel's fundamental position on excluding Europe so that it will not put pressure on it in the direction of a just peace.

As for the second development, it is the continuation of Israel's provocation and threats to peace efforts. Israel

continues to build new settlements in the occupied Arab territories, despite the U.S. Administration's and the world's criticism of that measure. If we add that measure to other recent Israeli policies and measures, including the policies of expulsion, curfew, and repression against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, we fully ascertain the Israeli tactic of trying to torpedo all peace efforts.

As for the third development that accompanies James Baker's new tour of the region, it is Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's meeting in London with Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov—the highest level meeting ever held between the two sides since diplomatic relations between them were severed following the 1967 aggression. The most notable thing at that meeting was the discussion of the regional conference idea and Soviet participation in it, as Yitzhaq Shamir raised the Israeli position demanding the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two sides before the Soviet Union's participation in that conference.

Undoubtedly these three developments reflect the international dimension within whose framework the idea of a new mechanism for peace, namely, the regional conference, has crystallized—which bolsters Baker's efforts during his third tour. [passage omitted]

The outcome of Baker's second tour was positive in general, but was blemished by major issues that necessitated Baker's return to the region on a third tour before the U.S. President embarks on his long-awaited tour, which he said he was anxious to make as long as it helps to achieve peace. There are three aspects: first, the regional conference idea. It is clear that there are differences over the concept and its dimensions. In fact there is a deliberate misunderstanding regarding Israel's part in order to void the idea of its substance, and until Baker's second tour ended, the meaning of the idea was still not defined in detail.

Second, Palestinian representation: Whether the peace framework is an international conference or a regional conference, the problem of Palestinian participation in peace efforts was one of the issues that undermined many of the previous ideas and attempts. So far Baker's tour does not seem to have achieved tangible progress in that regard.

Third, the essence of a peaceful settlement: The U.S. position is clear with regard to adherence to the foundations presented by President Bush. But there should be a clearer position vis-a-vis futile Israeli interpretations of the international resolutions and the intransigent rejection of the land-for-peace idea.

All these issues form the axis of Baker's third tour that started yesterday.

Regime, Kurds, Opposition React to Agreement**5-Point Draft Accord Detailed**

PM2504141091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 24 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ibrahim Nawwar: "Draft Five-Point Agreement Between Baghdad and Kurds"]

[Excerpts] World capitals, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—[dateline as published] It was announced in Baghdad yesterday that President Saddam Husayn has relinquished some of his powers to the Revolution Command Council and the new government. This has happened at a time when Western reports are talking about resentment in Iraqi Army circles following reports that Saddam agreed at the negotiations with the Kurds to hand over the city of Karkuk to the Kurdish opposition.

The Iraqi News Agency yesterday said that Saddam Husayn relinquished powers, which it did not specify, to the government, which he entrusted with introducing further democratic reforms in Iraq. [passage omitted]

A meeting was held the day before yesterday evening between Saddam Husayn and the Kurdish Front delegation currently conducting negotiations in the Iraqi capital to ensure the safety of Kurdish refugees and the return of 4.5 million Kurds to their homes.

The draft agreement between the Iraqi Government and the Kurdish Front, whereby the government intends to implement the autonomy law stipulated in the 11 March 1970 statement, was discussed at the meeting.

The draft agreement proposed by the Kurdish Front and whose clauses—except one, namely, clause 5, which is currently being negotiated—have been accepted by the Iraqi Government includes the following elements:

First, the autonomy law stipulated in the 11 March 1970 statement will be implemented. This includes the annexation of the city of Karkuk to Iraqi Kurdistan for the first time. The autonomy law in question differs from the autonomy implemented in 1974.

Second, Kurdish political prisoners in all Iraqi prisons and throughout Iraq will be released.

Third, the repatriation of all Kurdish refugees will be facilitated in cooperation with the United Nations and international relief organizations.

Fourth, political pluralism and democracy will be introduced in Iraq, which includes drawing up a new constitution and holding general elections throughout the country.

Fifth, this agreement will be guaranteed by international parties through the United Nations, and these guarantees could include a third party's participation in the negotiations.

The Iraqi delegation to the negotiations—which included, besides Saddam Husayn, Vice Presidents 'Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri and Taha Yasin Ramadan, Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, Defense Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, and Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid—has accepted the first four clauses of the draft agreement, but the fifth clause is still under discussion.

During the conversation that took place with Saddam Husayn evening before last, the Iraqi president declared to the participants his government's commitment to holding free elections and safeguarding political pluralism and freedom of the press. He said that, regarding international guarantees, the Iraqi Government, represented by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir al-Samarra'i, signed an agreement with UN envoy Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan in which it agreed for the international organization to have a presence in all Iraqi areas in order to help the refugees and guarantee their safety. The agreement will be valid until the end of 1991.

Kurdish Front elements, however, who participated in the meeting emphasized two points on the margin of the draft agreement: first, the need to apply democracy throughout Iraq; and, second, the need for that agreement to be guaranteed by the United Nations.

An informed Kurdish Front source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the agreement between the Iraqi Government is likely to be announced once the disagreement over the fifth clause is settled. The source pointed out that Front leaders made contacts during the days before the negotiations with "friendly forces" to ensure that no misunderstanding would take place and no obstacles placed in the way of any agreement that might be reached. [passage omitted]

Hammadi on Accord, Weapons List

JN2504113691 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Iraq said today that the Iraqi Government and representatives of four Kurdish parties have reached an agreement in principle paving the way for negotiations on the future status of Kurds within the Republic of Iraq. Iraqi Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi stressed Iraq's commitment to implementing the 1970 agreement on granting autonomy to the Kurds.

Addressing a news conference in Baghdad this morning, Hammadi said the aim is to reach a national solution in the autonomous region and to implement the 11 March 1970 agreement by which the Iraqi leadership has abided, adding that talks on the details of the agreement will be discussed next week. He also said Iraq is approaching the talks with attention and sincerity.

Hammadi rejected Western claims that Iraq has not provided the United Nations with all details concerning its stock of weapons as stipulated by the UN cease-fire resolution. He said the list sent to the United Nations was complete and comprehensive.

Hammadi Holds News Conference

JN2504120391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1152 GMT
25 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi has said Iraq is ready to establish positive relations of cooperation with all Arab countries based on the Arab League Charter and principles of Arab solidarity.

At a news conference this morning, Hammadi added that Iraq welcomes cooperation with any Arab country desiring it.

The prime minister continued: Iraq is positively looking forward to resuming the economic cooperation that bound it with other countries, especially Western nations, based on mutual interests.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi noted the Iraqi Government's determination to proceed with the march toward democratic changes in Iraq. He added that the decision to establish constitutional institutions and initiate a multi-party system and press freedom was an old decision, but the war with Iran and the recent crisis obstructed it.

The prime minister said dialogue is being conducted now with the Kurdistan front [not further identified] to find a constructive, positive national agreement on the autonomous region and the proper implementation of the March 1970 agreement.

The prime minister reaffirmed the government's determination to reopen installations in the socialist [as received] and mixed sectors of the economy that were destroyed as a result of the foreign aggression, terrorism, and riots.

The prime minister said: We are now going through a new phase that will have many economic effects. Our course is based on reconstructing the country and rebuilding what has been destroyed as a result of the aggression. At the same time, we seek to reform and change the institutions operating within the system of government to turn them from revolutionary institutions into constitutional ones. He noted that the new phase is bound to have its effect on numerous fields in the spheres of development, politics, the social domain, and international relations.

On the reconstruction plan, Sa'dun Hammadi said: We will pursue a practical policy. By this I mean we will accomplish what we can with our own intrinsic capabilities. As for cooperation with non-Iraqi installations or institutions, we will accomplish that by establishing such cooperation if possible. That is because we are not opposed to participation by non-Iraqi firms or institutions if such participation is conducted through normal procedures and through negotiations and agreement.

In his response to journalists' questions, Sa'dun Hammadi touched on the Security Council resolutions which were issued after the war ended. He said: We did not see

justification for the conditions that were included in the Security Council resolutions that were issued after the cease-fire. We said such conditions are unjust and unjustified—they are contrary to the letter and spirit of the first resolutions of the Security Council.

On Security Council Resolution 687, Hammadi noted that we accepted this resolution and explained the reasons for this. We believe that in accordance with its context and provisions, Iraq can import its food and medicine needs and can find the necessary financing to obtain these needs. This has not happened so far—something which we consider unjustified. We believe the motives are political. The provisions of the resolution do not allow this change.

The prime minister reviewed Iraq's oil policy, saying: Iraq's policy was based on creating a balance between the interests of the OPEC producers, the interests of the consumers, and the general interest of the world economy.

Hammadi added: The practical expression of the policy of equilibrium is that Iraq was calling for gradual, reasonable increases in the oil prices in keeping with inflation rates and the change in dollar prices. This is to enable the producers to somewhat maintain the purchasing power of the barrel of oil and to allow for gradual and reasonable increases in output to meet the increasing demand for oil so no oil crises occur and the world economy is stable.

He explained that Iraq does not favor large jumps in oil prices and it believes a balanced policy should be created for the benefit of both producers and consumers. He said this continues to be Iraq's policy and that it is a national, not circumstantial, policy. He said Iraq believes this policy should be reasserted to spare the world the danger of an oil crisis.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi affirmed that he sees nothing new in the oil policy. He said: We believe it is a sound policy, and we call on OPEC to implement it.

On relations with the West, he said Iraq had maintained healthy economic ties with Western industrialized nations. Iraq's relations with Western countries, especially France, the United States, Britain, Germany, and Japan had been growing stronger. Economic relations with these nations had registered a consistent growth in trade and technical and financial cooperation. There also had been an increase in Iraqi imports of equipment and oil.

He added: Iraq sees no reason why these relations should not resume and even grow stronger. Iraq had maintained sound economic cooperation with other nations based on mutual noninterference in internal affairs, equality, and a communality of interests.

He stressed that economically, there are common interests between Iraq and Western nations, and that, to the extent that others are willing, Iraq is ready to resume and strengthen these ties.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi said: Iraq now seeks to strengthen the Arab League, restore solidarity within it, and bolster this institution. Iraq believes the removal of tense Arab relations is normal.

Hammadi added: If this is accepted by all parties, Iraq can only favor good relations with the Arab countries and Arab solidarity. Iraq's international relations were in good shape before the recent crisis, but these relations cracked as a result of what happened.

The prime minister said: Iraq now looks to the future, is ready to apologize, to turn over a page, and to be concerned with the future, not the past. Iraq cannot remain captive of the crisis that took place. We are ready to look positively at the future and to build our international and Arab relations on this basis.

He said: This, however, requires a reciprocal stand from both sides—Iraq and the others. It cannot be a unilateral stand.

On the agreement signed with the United Nations, the prime minister said: From the outset, Iraq has reiterated that it will do its utmost to provide assistance, relief aid, and security to those harmed by the acts of treason, riots, and destruction perpetrated by those coming from across the borders and the mobs inside the country. Iraq issued a general amnesty pardoning them, extended this amnesty, and provided all possible assistance to help them return. When the UN delegation came to conclude an agreement in this regard, Iraq welcomed this. Consequently, an agreement on this was very easily struck.

On what the U.S. Government is doing, he said: We do not see any justification for it, particularly after Iraq reached an agreement with the United Nations, which represents the community of nations and can mobilize immense efforts. He added: "We are against any act meant to interfere in our internal affairs and undermine our country's sovereignty."

The prime minister pointed out that what was reached with the Kurdistan Front delegation yesterday was in the same vein. He added that they [the delegation members] also do not want to see other countries, be it the United States or any other country, interfere in Iraqi affairs, exploiting the relief issue.

The prime minister added: We have to differentiate between relief and turning the relief issue into a political issue. We should guard against the relief issue being turned into a political one. If the purpose is to provide refugees with relief aid and security, this endeavor has our full support. But, we are against the political objective, against what some countries are doing on the borders with Turkey and Iran.

On the Arab relations in the Gulf, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi said: The Arabian Gulf is part of the Arab countries. What applies to our relations with the Arab countries applies to the Arabian Gulf. The special thing about the Arabian Gulf is that it is close to Iraq. But, they are Arab countries and what we say about the Arab countries applies to the Gulf.

Regarding the relationship with Turkey and Iran, he said that in principle Iraq seeks to establish cooperation, cordial, and peaceful relations with its non-Arab neighbors. It took many steps in this direction. We seek to establish sound and cordial relations with Turkey and Iran. Before the recent crisis, we had very cordial and developed relations with Turkey. We embarked on important initiatives to restore peace with Iran, before the recent period.

He added: We honestly and sincerely expressed to the Iranian Government our desire to look at the future and remove the effects of the past. What happened on the part of Turkey and Iran recently weakened this tendency.

The prime minister stressed that Iraq rejects interference in its internal affairs, regardless of the party which conducts this interference. He added: We insist that Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and freedom to organize its own affairs should be safeguarded. We also insist that the principle of noninterference should be upheld. In the future, we will be ready to establish fraternal ties with our neighbors and with all, provided that reciprocity is maintained, especially by our neighbors.

The prime minister indicated that it has never been Iraq's policy to say something which is untrue. He added: It is possible for Iraq to decline to answer a question posed to it. But, it has never been its policy to say something that is untrue.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi affirmed that Iraq possesses neither biological nor nuclear weapons.

On the nonreturn from Iran of the Iraqi prisoners of war who were captured during the Iraq-Iran war, he said: What happened is a partial swap. Iran sent back a number of the Iraqi POW's which is equivalent to the number of the Iranian POW's. It did not send back the others. We believe there is no excuse to keep this number of Iraqi POW's in Iran.

He said: We believe the Iraqi planes should return to Iraq without delay. There is no reason for the delay. They are in Iran, and Iraq has explained its stand on this issue, which now depends on the Iranian side, not the Iraqi side.

In his response to the journalists' questions, Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi reviewed a number of issues regarding the damage and destruction inflicted by the saboteurs on the state service facilities during the riots and the efforts being made to rebuild and reopen them to place them in the service of the citizens.

Kurdish Radio on Talabani Remarks

NC2504191291 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Following his talks with Saddam Husayn today, Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said that the draft agreement, which is based on the proposals first agreed upon in 1970, includes promises of free elections, political pluralism, and freedom of the press.

Talabani appealed to the Kurdish refugees on Iraq's northern border to return to their homes. He expressed the hope that the next round of negotiations, which will deal with the details of the agreement, will encourage such a return.

While expressing gratitude for the international aid for the Kurdish refugees, Talabani said that the U.S. and other forces must leave the region once an official agreement between the Kurds and the Iraqi Government is reached. He said that the Kurdish leaders and Iraqi officials discussed guarantees to respect the human rights of the Kurds and the abolition of the emergency laws in Kurdistan.

Comments on Accord With Baghdad

NC2504194291 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Negotiations between a Kurdistan Front delegation led by Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, and a high-level Iraqi Government delegation are continuing. So far an agreement in principle has been reached on implementing and developing the 11 March agreement. Meanwhile, consultations are continuing to discuss details and find solutions to all outstanding issues. This may take a few more days.

While international and regional parties are debating the usefulness of this agreement, the reasons behind it, and its impact on all parties concerned, one fundamental issue remains the most important among all other issues and facts. It is that the Kurdish problem in Iraq since its inception has passed through difficult circumstances, long periods of repression, and short periods of quiet. These difficult circumstances and acts of brutal violence by the successive regimes have created a lack of trust in all the authorities' actions and promises to the Kurdish people.

The Kurdish people in Iraq and their vanguard opposition forces are struggling to achieve what can be achieved of their just and legitimate rights. For this they have made immense sacrifices throughout the past years. They hope to see this struggle and these sacrifices bear fruit.

The events of the past years have clearly demonstrated that the Kurdish issue, like other vital issues in the world, cannot be solved by force and violence, regardless of the intensity and degree of the repression pursued by the authorities. This has again been proven through the popular uprising and the events that have followed it. The success of any agreement to solve the Kurdish problem in Iraq requires the abolition of the emergency laws in Kurdistan, good will, and words accompanied by deeds. Without this, no drastic or serious solution can be reached, not only for the Kurdish problem but also for all Iraq's problems. Iraq has been torn by wars in Kurdistan, against Iran and Kuwait, and against the masses of the uprising in southern Iraq.

Opposition on Kurds' 'Reservations'

NC2604090891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Remarks by Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], have been received with astonishment in Iraqi and non-Iraqi political and popular circles. These circles note that Talabani was eager to stress the atmosphere of cordiality that prevailed during the talks with Saddam Husayn and the agreement that was reached during them. These sources say that our people's ordeal is still continuing, particularly in the north. Reports indicate that 500 Iraqis die every day in the Iraqi-Turkish border region alone.

Speaking at a brief news conference after his meeting with Saddam, Talabani said that he found himself compelled to return to negotiations and reconciliation.

Meanwhile, a foreign representative of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, which is the PUK's main ally in the Kurdistan Front, has expressed reservations over the agreement. (Hushar al-Zibari) said the agreement was a preliminary one and many issues remained unresolved. In a clear reference to the inadequacy of the regime's pledges, (al-Zibari) called for more guarantees.

A representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] in Lebanon has criticized the dialogue with the outcast Iraqi regime. The representative warned of reliance on the pledges of protection made by some of the arrogant countries and by the regime itself. The representative said: We should be very careful about these pledges, as Saddam has repeatedly broken his promises in the past. The SAIRI representative said that Saddam should abdicate power before anything is decided on Iraq's internal situation.

The SAIRI representative said: We reject negotiations with the current regime as a matter of principle. This regime is responsible for the murder of some 300,000 people during the uprising, 200,000 of them in the central and southern parts of the country.

British Commandos Clash With Iraqi 'Police'

LD2504115991 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1131 GMT 25 Apr 91

[By Gavin Cordon in Zakho]

[Text] British commandos have clashed for the first time with Iraqi armed police inside the safe zone. But they were today halted from starting the operation to drive Saddam Husayn's security forces from the Kurdish safe haven inside northern Iraq.

Three companies of 45 commandos were expected to mount the first allied foot patrols inside the town of Zakho where the Iraqi police have been massing in large numbers in order to frighten off refugees. But at 3AM today the British commander in the safe zone, Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Thomson, was told to order his men to remain in their barracks. Last night commandos patrolling in Zakho had to intervene when eight Iraqi policemen tried to drag off a Kurd who was injured in a car crash. "I had to make it plain to them that it was not the way to behave," said Lt. Col. Thomson.

The British had put the injured Kurd into a taxi to take him to hospital when the Iraqi police appeared. Afterwards they accompanied the injured man to the hospital and told the hospital director to make sure he was properly treated.

The commandos had believed the Iraqis had until tomorrow to leave the safe zone peacefully or they would be driven out by force of arms. But a spokesman for the United States forces in northern Iraq, who are organising the safe haven operation, insisted there was no deadline for the Iraqis to quit. Lt. Col. Bob Flocke said the Americans met the Iraqis yesterday to discuss the presence of the police in the town. "We told them there were too many armed police for the size of town," he said. "We did say we would consider a reasonable number of unarmed police. We said we needed a response quickly but there was no deadline."

Today while the British troops remained in the half-built Sulakh Hotel on the edge of Zakho which they occupied yesterday, the Iraqi police were continuing to move about the town in large numbers, many armed with Kalashnikov semi-automatic rifles and with side arms. Their continued presence in the town threatens to undermine the safe haven operation because while they remain the Kurds are likely to be too afraid to enter the safe zone.

No Kurdish refugees have yet arrived at the camp built for them in the fields outside the town. Today the Royal Marine Commandos sent two doctors and three medical assistants out with troops patrolling deep in the mountains to try to make contact with the refugees. On the road to Baghdad, Iraqi troops and tanks could be seen moving south towards the capital.

Most looked ill-equipped and pleased to be withdrawing from the region. One soldier said he expected his unit to

pull back to the town of al Mawsil, just below President Bush's 36th parallel limit for Iraqi military activities, within the next few days.

Foreign Minister Asks UN To Assume Refugee Aid

JN2504142591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1352 GMT
25 Apr 91

[Text] The United Nations, 25 Apr (INA)—Iraq has urged the United Nations to assume its tasks honorably and take full responsibility for humanitarian relief operations in keeping with the 18 April 1991 agreement it signed with Iraq in this regard.

In a letter delivered to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by the permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn said that while Iraq urges the United Nations to observe the agreement, it condemns the actions of U.S. troops in northern Iraq and denounces their violations and interference in its internal affairs.

An INA correspondent in New York reported that the permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations asked the UN secretary general to circulate the letter as an official document of the UN Security Council.

The following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency:

At 1840 local time on 22 April 1991, the U.S. liaison officer informed our military representative in the city of Zakho that U.S. troops would conduct relief and landing operations with helicopters in the city of al-Imadiyah and the surrounding area on 23 April. He asked our military representative to inform the troops in this area of the U.S. plans to avoid clashes or friction.

This U.S. measure comes five days after I signed an agreement on 18 April, 1991 on behalf of the Iraqi Government with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the executive commissioner of relief operations whom you have appointed, and after we have begun taking immediate, practical steps with the coordinator Prince Sadruddin appointed to implement this agreement. This U.S. measure, furthermore, is the second precedent since 20 April and constitutes another flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, which continues.

While protesting this measure, the Iraqi Government would like to ask Your Excellency once more that the United Nations intervene immediately to take over the relief mission at the U.S. camps set up by force inside Iraq in accordance with the 18 April agreement, which organized in a comprehensive, integrated, and balanced manner relief operations in Iraq, especially for Iraqi Kurdish citizens, because this agreement achieves any alleged objectives behind the U.S. measures.

Our request comes when the relief operations coordinator, who was appointed by your executive commissioner, is visiting the northern region to ensure setting up UN humanitarian centers, with full cooperation on our part.

Please accept my full respect.

[Signed] Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq.

[Dated] 24 April 1991.

Memo Alleges U.S. Allowed 'Robbery' of Firm

JN2504144791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1346 GMT
25 Apr 91

[Text] United Nations, 25 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent UN representative has sent the following memo to Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the world body, protesting violations and infringements by U.S. forces and their brazen interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and the damage this causes to its economic infrastructure. Following is the text of the memo:

Your Excellency:

It pleases me to inform you that during their presence at the northern oil field of al-Rumaylah, U.S. forces prevented Iraqi oil workers from taking minimal measures to protect the property of the South Oil Company against manipulation and robbery. The U.S. forces have let saboteurs pillage and vandalize, using large transport vehicles with no distinguishable plates to load the company's cement, supplies, tools, and equipment. They are believed to be heading for Kuwait. This suspicion was reinforced by the fact the U.S. forces have claimed the property stolen under their full view belongs to Kuwait. First estimates of the losses are put at 18 million dinars.

These acts constitute a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and a deliberate pillage of Iraqi property. As we register our vigorous protest and advise Your Excellency of the matter, we request you take the action required to stop these practices as called for by the rules and principles of the UN Charter.

Saddam in Baiji; Gas Rationing To End 28 Apr

JN2504164991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1603 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has blessed the fruitful efforts of the workers at the Baiji refinery during a visit his excellency the president made to the refinery in the Baiji District this morning. His excellency the leader president added: The spirit of construction is a jihad when it is used to serve Iraqis. This is the spirit that we need for construction. The Iraqis of this age are all embodiments of sacrifice. God willing, their sacrifices will be redoubled and their country will always grow, prosper, and reach further heights of pride.

His excellency the president addressed the refinery workers saying: Great hopes are pinned on you, hopes that you will achieve more than you have already achieved.

Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, defense minister and the official in charge of the industry and oil sector, earlier relayed to the leader president the good news that unrestricted gasoline supplies to citizens will begin on the birthday of his excellency the president on 28 April. He said that this is the gift of the employees working in the industry and oil sector on this great occasion.

Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan added: The field visit made by his excellency the leader president to the al-Dawrah refinery in Baghdad provided great motivation to those working in the oil sector.

The defense minister, who is also the official in charge of the industry and oil sector, explained the phased work currently under way to reconstruct what has been destroyed by the aggression staged by 30 countries. He added that work is continuing around the clock to reoperate the Baiji refinery at 100 percent capacity and to secure the necessary oil products to citizens shortly.

The refinery workers welcomed his excellency the president and saw him off singing songs, affirming their determination to continue the reconstruction endeavor.

On his return journey, his excellency the leader president inspected the city of Baiji and toured its streets and neighborhoods amidst the shouts of its sons, who slaughtered sheep to celebrate his generous visit. During his tour, his excellency the president also called on some families in their homes and acquainted himself with their lives and their livelihood conditions.

His excellency the president was accompanied on the visit by Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, defense minister and the official in charge of the industry and oil sector.

UN Commissioner Unveils Relief Centers Plan

OW2504133691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1313 GMT
25 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata unveiled a plan Thursday to set up relief centers in Iraq for Kurdish refugees.

Ogata said her organization plans to establish "10 to 15 humanitarian relief and trust restoration centers" scattered throughout Iraq.

Rather than housing refugees, as refugee camps do, the centers will distribute relief supplies and attempt to ensure the safe return of the estimated 2.5 million Kurdish refugees who have fled their homes in Iraq, she said.

Ogata, speaking to a press conference at the Japan National Press Club, termed the outflow of Kurdish refugees unprecedented in its speed and the numbers involved.

She appealed for humanitarian assistance from the international community, especially help in financing the construction and operation of the refugee centers.

Allied troops have set up camps in northern Iraq but the U.S. Government is eager to turn them over to the United Nations for fear of being swept up in either a civil war or renewed fighting with the Iraqi authorities, themselves eager to see the allied troops replaced by U.N. administrators.

While the U.N. centers announced Thursday, to be scattered throughout Iraqi border areas, will not replace the allied refugee camps, officials hope the presence of neutral U.N. administrators will help prevent conflict between the allied troops running the camps and Iraqi forces.

"When I went to the UNHCR office in Geneva on February 11 following my inauguration as commissioner, the world was saddled with the plight of 15 million refugees," she said. "Now the Kurdish refugee crisis has boosted this number to 17.5 million."

"Some 700,000 of the Kurdish refugees crossed the border in just four days, fleeing aerial bombardment and the burning of houses by remaining units of the Iraqi Republican Guards that survived the attacks by the multinational forces" during the Persian Gulf war.

"I myself witnessed 50- to 80-kilometer-long lines of Kurdish refugees fleeing into Iran on foot and in all types of vehicles, including even farm tractors," Ogata said.

Ogata, who became the first Japanese ever to head the UNHCR in January, arrived in Tokyo on Sunday following a five-day fact-finding mission to Iran, Iraq, and Turkey.

She said the U.N. refugee centers will monitor the political situation in Iraq to ensure the safety of the Kurdish refugees, who fear persecution by the government. At the same time, she said the centers will try to ease the refugees' fears of persecution.

"Although the Iraqi Government assured me that its security forces will not assault the Kurds following their return to Iraq, it remains unclear whether the Iraqi Government can have its local officers live up to this assurance," she said.

The commissioner said she believes the Iraqi Government is aware of the need to refrain from military operations against the Kurds because of the need to persuade the international community to lift the economic blockade on Baghdad.

"I flew back to Japan to plead for the Japanese Government to give more aid, while trying to comply with a request from private-sector organizations to attend a meeting to initiate a fund for assisting the Kurdish

refugees," she said, expressing thanks to the Japanese Government for its 100 million dollar grant.

The commissioner appealed to the world's mass media to provide citizens with "balanced information on the agony of refugees" everywhere.

"There are refugees being assisted by the media spotlight and refugees who are not attracting media attention," she said, pointing to the 200,000 Ethiopian refugees as an example of a group she feels is not drawing enough media attention.

INA Updates Number of Returning Kurds 25 Apr

JN2504192791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1917 GMT
25 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—An INA correspondent in northern Iraq said the number of Kurdish citizens returning to their homes in cities and villages in the north up through today, Thursday, 25 April, has reached 207,088.

'Doors' Open for Ties With Arab States

JN2604085191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT
26 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH asserts that Iraq has distinguished itself through its solid, strong, and constantly improving relations with fraternal Arab countries—relations that are based on pan-Arab principles and the Arab nation's supreme interest. Iraq has also distinguished itself in its relations with other countries in the world based on mutual interest, respect for others, and noninterference in domestic affairs.

In an editorial today, the paper says: The result of this firm policy was that Iraq's relations with everyone were bolstered and Iraq assumed its remarkable Arab and international status.

The paper clarifies that the dissonant noises we hear these days from imperialist quarters—that Iraq has not changed anything with this principled course in its Arab and international relations—are designed to usurp Iraq's vanguard Arab role and weaken its international relations in an attempt to isolate it from the world. The paper says: Despite the aggression, whose magnitude and severity are well known, and despite the evil conspiracy, with its overlapping and consecutive chapters, Iraq has left no gap in its course, policy, and relations at any level.

The paper says that through its strong ties with the countries of the world, Iraq stresses that the major aggression and the rancorous destruction have not in any way affected Iraq's face, which is known to the Arab world and the whole world.

The paper says Iraq underlines its great concern to strengthen its ties with everyone, particularly the fraternal Arab states—ties that have to be based on the pan-Arab principles and the Arab nation's supreme interests.

The paper adds: With this assertion, Iraq opens the doors for the Arab brothers who wish to build relations on foundations that will bring the Arabs' presence up to an advanced level and make the Arab homeland a bright picture that corresponds to the Arab nation's cultural and historic status.

The paper calls on everyone to disregard the results of the conspiracy that targeted Iraq and its Arab and international ties through which they [not further identified] aimed at harming Arab ties and bringing about the required crack in the Arab edifice.

Opposition on Al-Basrah, Al-'Amarah Attacks

NC2504142191 (*Clandestine Voice of Iraqi
Opposition in Arabic* 1300 GMT 25 Apr 91)

[Text] The forces of the popular uprising have attacked Saddam's Republican Guards and a center for the ruling Ba'th Party in al-'Amarah. The forces also attacked the 21st Mechanized Brigade in al-Basrah and two other positions manned by the tyrant's forces near the city. The masses of the popular uprising inflicted casualties upon the despot's troops, including a major general, in six attacks carried out by the revolutionaries in al-Basrah and al-'Amarah. In addition, 47 members of the tyrant's troops were captured.

23 Said Executed in Al-'Amarah

NC2504140391 (*Clandestine Voice of Iraqi
Opposition in Arabic* 1300 GMT 25 Apr 91)

[Text] The troops of tyrant Saddam Husayn have executed 23 citizens in al-'Amarah for killing an intelligence

officer in the defeated regime. The slain officer, a captain, served with the troops of the defeatist despot in Kuwait and was later appointed to the military command in al-'Amarah.

Further on Clashes

NC2604081491 (*Clandestine Voice of Rebellious
Iraq in Arabic* 0630 GMT 26 Apr 91)

[Excerpts] Our heroic revolutionaries launched an attack on a position held by a regime brigade in al-Basrah on the morning of 25 April, inflicting further casualties on the regime's troops. Our correspondent says the operation began when our forces monitored suspicious movement among the regime's forces. Our forces responded with a three-pronged attack, sowing confusion and panic among the regime's troops and causing many to flee the battleground in the early moments of the confrontation. Our correspondent says that the regime's forces have suffered heavy losses so far and adds that the fighting is still under way and our revolutionaries have gained the upper hand. [passage omitted]

Our valiant fighters in al-'Amarah have attacked all the regime's terrorist centers, which are already crumbling under the ferocity of the attacks. Our correspondent reports that our revolutionaries are targeting the departments of security, intelligence, and police, as well as some of the assembly points of the regime's forces. Our heroic revolutionaries gained control of the entire city during the night. Our correspondent says that many of the regime's henchmen were killed in the attacks, while others managed to escape amid the prevailing chaos.

In the al-Madinah section of al-Basrah, our revolutionaries staged a lightning raid on a center of the regime and burned two armored vehicles.

Reportage, Commentary on Baker Visit, Peace Plan

Peres Interviewed 24 Apr

TA2404210491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1838 GMT 24 Apr 91

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin and party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran, moderated by Yoram Ronen on the weekly program "Moqed"—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ronen] Mr. Peres, you met with James Baker, you even initiated a meeting with him in Geneva last week. You sounded very pessimistic yesterday when you talked about the chances for Baker's success. You said, in fact, that you do not believe Baker will succeed in pushing his initiative forward.

[Peres] That is true. I believe the no's the government gave to the London plan and its rejection of the May 1982 plan are complemented by a new no. In other words, all those things that were obstacles then still remain.

[Ronen] Is that what Baker told you too?

[Peres] First of all, I report my own remarks; I am not Baker's spokesman.

[Ronen] But was it your impression that he shared this view?

[Peres] Baker would not tell me what he thought, nor did I seek his opinion. I am not so interested; I voiced my views. I did not go seeking his. Let me tell you: The first problem is who will represent the Palestinians. I believe there are some people in Israel who think the Palestinians can only be represented by people who have not yet been created. That is because every born Palestinian is unfit to represent them, they think. Thus, this person and that person are disqualified.

[Ronen] Only those who identify with the PLO.

[Peres] What do you mean by that? The PLO is two things: It is political positions and it is terrorism. Those who do not dabble in terrorism may hold their views.

[Ronen] Even if they are PLO views?

[Peres] And what are these? Can you imagine that there is any Palestinian who does not want independence? Let us, for once, be serious. We do not rule out any Palestinian for his views. To the best of my knowledge, neither does the Likud. We disqualify people who instead of voicing opinions stick knives into others or shoot people with their rifles.

[Halperin] You met with Faysal al-Husayni.

[Peres] That is correct.

[Halperin] Well, he identifies with the PLO and is a resident of East-Jerusalem. Do you think Faysal al-Husayni, a known leader of the Palestinian people, can be on the Palestinian delegation for negotiations or even lead it?

[Peres] He can, according to the Israeli law. The law mentions only people who belong to the terrorist organization called the PLO.

[Halperin] The law aside, what is your personal view, sir?

[Peres] I think such a representative can participate as well. Why not?

[Ronen] Even though he says openly that he is a PLO man?

[Peres] He did not say that. Had he said so....

[Ronen, interrupting] He said that he receives directives from the PLO.

[Peres] But all of them say that! I know people who are far more moderate and they, too, say that. Many of them even in Israel say that. Let us for once tell the truth as it really is: They also want to stay alive. If you think there is a Palestinian today who can say that he is ready to fight the PLO and hope to stay alive, fine. I know of no such Palestinian, because terrorism is not only against Jews; it is also against Arabs. We can protect ourselves with our weapons; they must defend themselves with their rhetoric. This is not to say that Faysal al-Husayni is a Zionist or a Likud supporter or a member of the Labor Party. That is nonsense.

[Halperin] But one can and should talk to him.

[Peres] It is first of all necessary to know what everyone thinks and what it is all about. Let me ask you: Did al-Sadat not fight against us? And the Likud is currently extremely interested in talking to al-Asad. Is he a man we can call the righteous of the nations, a lover of Zion, or a lover of Israel? What do you want to discuss with him?

[Ronen] By the same logic, we could also talk to 'Arafat.

[Peres] But 'Arafat currently continues to espouse terrorism. Husayn did not do that and the Egyptians are not doing it. But let me say something to al-Asad's credit, leaving his conduct aside: We have a partial agreement with him, and he honors it.

[Azran] Mr. Peres, let us take a different approach. Supposing you were prime minister now and you had to reply to Mr. Baker. Let us put things on the balance: What positive answers would you go along with today?

[Peres] Look, before I answer Baker I think about what I would tell my own country and people. I have no duty to Baker; I have a duty to us. I say: First of all, let us stop telling these tales that Gaza belongs to us. What do we mean when we say that Gaza is ours? It is not as if I have to cede Gaza; I have to give up creating the impression that Gaza is controlled by us. Gaza is not in our hands.

[Rosen] But Judaea and Samaria too?

[Peres] One minute, please. Gaza is an area of 350 sq km with 700,000 Palestinians and 30,000 babies. They do not have passports, they do not have water, they have no sources of income, and they live in refugee camps. Can you resettle them or sustain them? Do you want to give them passports? I want to tell you as an Israeli, and let us leave Baker aside for a moment: Either we share the land, or we share the sovereignty—and by that I mean that we would give the Gazans Israeli passports. This will add to us another 700,000 voters from Gaza who do not want us.

[Halperin] But no such proposal exists, either from the Likud or....

[Peres, interrupting] What does it matter that none exists? This will come to be the moment you annex Gaza, with its 700,000 inhabitants who have no passports. The world will then ask us: What do you propose to deprive them of passports? Or do you intend to annex the area and discard them? Can you at all remove from the Middle East 200 million Palestinians [figure as heard]? So I say: One moment. First of all I want to give up what is not mine. There are territories which we do not have. Nor are we in control in Nabulus at the moment. It is easier to visit Cairo than it is to tour Nabulus. I would like to add one more thing: I am definitely ready to go along with Resolutions 242 and 338. Mr. Begin committed us to them.

[Halperin] Territory for peace?

[Peres] Yes, definitely. I conceal nothing. I stand on the following things: Jerusalem, Israel's united capital under Israeli sovereignty, which I am not prepared to give up; and the Jordan River as a security line, which means that no foreign army will cross it.

[Azran] What about the Golan Heights?

[Peres] I never invited al-Asad. If you want to invite him, then talk to him about the Golan Heights. One of the most stupid things I have ever heard in the political sphere is this idea of inviting al-Asad for negotiations only to tell him that we would not give up the Golan Heights. Let him sit where he is. If you do not want to cede the Golan Heights, kindly explain to me why Mr. Shamir wants to invite Mr. al-Asad? What for? So that Israel is again portrayed as rejectionist? Does this make any sense?

[Azran] Mr. Peres, we want to hear your opinions. With your permission, let us start with the Golan Heights.

[Peres] Here is my reply: You asked a question, let me answer it. I am ready to give up those territories which are not in our hands but in Arab hands. I am not prepared to give up those areas which we need for our security. I will not go back to the 1967 lines. Second, I agree to sit with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation—an idea the Likud, or some of its members in the Cabinet, though not all of them, has rejected and is now trying to

revive. I believe this joint delegation should be the interlocutors, and such a delegation can be formed. Let me remind you that such a party participated in the talks in 1973. It was a Jordanian delegation that included Palestinians. We sat and talked to them and this served as the opening for the negotiations with Egypt. In general, without such a delegation nothing can be achieved. I suggested an opening evening sponsored by the USSR and the United States. This was described as the end of the State of Israel. Today only the name has been changed: Instead of an international conference, they call it a regional conference. The terms are far stiffer, and yet this is considered okay.

I do not suggest inviting Syria or conducting any negotiations on the Golan Heights. We do not need it; we do not have the strength to carry all these things out simultaneously. Every child knows that al-Asad will only come if he has a promise either from us or from the United States.

[Halperin] In other words, you are in favor of a single-track path?

[Peres] I think that it is hard enough to stay on one track; there is no point of getting on two tracks and finding it impossible to run on even just one of them. This definitely would be foolish.

Incidentally, the second track is already disintegrating. Everyone always thought that all the obstacles had been removed and Saudi Arabia is ready to recognize us. I said then and there: Saudi Arabia will not come, because as soon as it gets closer to Israel it will ask about Jerusalem. It has no other choice. King Fahd is in charge of the religious places. He cannot recognize us—from his standpoint, not from mine.

[Halperin] So you think that we have gone back to the Jordanian-Palestinian option?

[Peres] Definitely. It is the only viable one for those who desire peace. Those who do not should not think that the current situation will remain unchanged. We will again have an arms race. The race is old, but the weapons are new. The Middle East has never yet seen the kind of weapons that will be introduced to it.

Meanwhile something—which, you must believe me, to me is most amazing—is happening. This is aliyah. Who ever dreamed that we would see such a miracle? It was not we who opened the gates of the USSR; it was its collapse, which is continuing. At long last, a large Jewish tribe has begun to come to Israel. A year has gone by, and yet there is not even the suggestion of a plan [to absorb the immigrants]. In this I am quoting Mr. Kleiner [Likud Knesset member and chairman of the Knesset's Aliyah and Absorption Committee], who said: There are 40,000 unemployed new immigrants and yet the government does not have even a single plan. This is a quote from him, not to mention Mr. Bruno [the governor of the Bank of Israel, who warned against massive unemployment in the absence of a comprehensive plan to offer

jobs to Israelis and new immigrants] or the finance minister, who said that unemployment will go up to 10.7 percent. What is happening to us? Goodness, Jews are coming to Israel! Let us ignore the ethnic issue [of the balance between Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews, which is expected to affect the partisan breakdown in the next elections] or the philosophical aspect. How come we are not girding our loins to absorb them? I tell you as a man who also does practical things that we could absorb them, all of us together. [passage omitted]

[Halperin] There has been talk that the Likud may initiate early Knesset elections. Would you be prepared for that?

[Peres] No, not early elections initiated by the Likud; we ought to initiate such a move ourselves.

[Halperin] You mean that the Labor Party will initiate early elections?

[Peres] Israel cannot be allowed to wallow in such a failure in aliyah, in the absence of a government, and be left without a peace process for another 18 months.

[Halperin] Is that what you are going to do?

[Peres] I will suggest that we demand early elections outright—though not for partisan reasons, but for national reasons. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 24 April carries the reaction by "the prime minister's associates" to Peres' call for new elections that "the government is stable, it tackles the problems it faces adequately, and it is believed that the elections will not be brought forward." The sources "added that the Likud is not afraid of early elections, but believes that they should be held on schedule."]

Meridor: U.S. Using USSR as 'Lever'

TA2504150191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Justice Minister Dan Meridor has said that Baker is apparently trying to use the Soviet Union as a lever to promote the peace process, by exerting Soviet pressure on the Arab countries. The justice minister was addressing high school students in Ramat Gan today. Our correspondent Uri Revah reports:

[Begin recording] [Revah] Is the current situation conducive to a peace process? When the U.S. secretary of state's plane lands here for yet another round of talks, is there a chance that something will budge in the aftermath of the Gulf war, Justice Minister Dan Meridor asked rhetorically. Minister Meridor was optimistic. There is a chance, he said, if the United States proceeds correctly and brings about the beginning of a change in relations between Israel and the Arab countries. Through U.S. persuasion, an attempt can be made to break the

Arab taboo on trying to solve the conflict with Israel. Meridor referred to Soviet involvement in the peace process.

[Meridor] The U.S. plan calls for U.S.-Soviet cooperation, for certain rules in the talks. The Americans may be looking for Soviet agreement. They may arrive here with such a Soviet agreement, including the resumption of relations with Israel, etc.

Another possibility is that the difficulties they encountered in the Arab world made them try to use Soviet leverage on those countries—Syria, others perhaps—in a bid to persuade them to join the process.

[Revah] Addressing students of the Ohel Shem School in Ramat Gan, the justice minister was asked his opinion about the arrest of the four Israelis in Cyprus.

[Meridor] That is a good question. Next question, please. [end recording]

Ben-Aharon on Baker's Chances

TA2504154591 Tel Aviv Educational Television
Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Dan Margalit—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Good evening, Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

[Ben-Aharon] Good evening.

[Margalit] We have just heard on the news and read in today's newspaper headlines that Jerusalem is pessimistic about the chances of Baker's mission succeeding. What caused this pessimism?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know; I cannot sense a special feeling of pessimism. I think that those who entertained hopes for a dramatic breakthrough may possibly feel disappointed, but I think that everyone knows that at issue is a serious, long-standing, and deeply ingrained conflict, and no shuttling between capitals can solve it with one magic stroke.

[Margalit] But while Baker criticized Israel for setting up another settlement, another official in his delegation says that the Syrians are also heavily obstructing the peace process. Is that not sufficient ground for, if not pessimism, then the feeling that Baker will return to Washington and not return to the Middle East in the next few months?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not believe that Baker or the United States will cut themselves off from the process because the United States is currently the only remaining superpower. Since it has such a great interest in the Middle East, I do not believe that it will announce its withdrawal from the issue and say: Guys, I have had enough. This is it.

As for the settlements in Judea and Samaria that you mentioned, this was, is, and will continue to be. The United

States knows that the Israeli Government will not prevent Jews from settling anywhere in Eretz Yisrael.

[Margalit] What have we nevertheless been telling him when he claimed that this is an obstacle or something that could jeopardize progress toward peace?

[Ben-Aharon] The issue has been raised on quite a number of occasions. What the prime minister and other Cabinet ministers have told them is that we have proof that this has never been an obstacle. After all, we talked to Egypt and reached both the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with Egypt, yet the settlements were no hindrance.

[Margalit] Although the Sinai settlements were dismantled—but let us not go back to history. My question is: You said that this is what we tell Baker and the whole world that Israel is indeed ready to advance and even make concessions to make some process possible. That is the issue of the conference. The Arabs insist that it should be an international conference because they would like to remove the onus for negotiations with Israel from themselves and put it entirely on some international forum.

[Ben-Aharon] There is one issue that is important for the Arabs, at least, on which we tried to make progress if only to show Baker and the whole world that Israel is indeed ready to advance and even make concessions to make some process possible. That is the issue of the conference. The Arabs insist that it should be an international conference because they would like to remove the onus for negotiations with Israel from themselves and put it entirely on some international forum.

[Margalit] Even though the Syrian foreign minister said yesterday that he would be prepared to call it a peace conference rather than an international conference if this makes it easier for Israel to swallow?

[Ben-Aharon] The problem is not so much the term but exactly what will happen in it, whether it will be a permanent forum and the linkage between that international forum and direct negotiations. We want direct negotiations because we want to live in peace with them. We do not want them to say after they have signed some document with x number of superpowers: No, it was not us; it was the superpowers—and thus allow for the hostility to continue in one form or another.

[Margalit] Let me ask you, with regard to Baker's question, one more thing to clarify the Israeli position. Despite everything that has been written and said over the past 10 days, though mostly in the past week: Is it true that the Israeli Government would allow an independent delegation of the Palestinians from the territories to participate in the conference in which it will agree to participate, or does Israel no longer support such a move and instead insist that the Palestinians will either be an integral part of or partners in a Jordanian delegation?

[Ben-Aharon] Let me tell you, Dan, that Israel is committed by the Camp David accords to negotiate with a delegation of representatives of the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District the establishment of autonomy and the permanent status of these areas.

As for your question...

[Margalit, interrupting] Israel likewise committed itself to that in its May 1989 peace initiative.

[Ben-Aharon] Precisely. As for your question, the Israeli Government has informed Baker that we prefer to go back to the modality mentioned in the Camp David accords, if only to allow the Kingdom of Jordan to enter the process. It makes sense for Jordan and that delegation of Arabs to be together because we all know that what is involved is one public, one nation with interests on both sides of the Jordan River. It therefore makes sense for that to be a joint delegation.

[Margalit] That is clear, but there is also an Israeli undertaking to accept the Palestinians from the territories without Jordan.

[Ben-Aharon] Yes. Incidentally, I want you to know that the Arabs are not necessarily insisting that there will be an independent Palestinian delegation. There are advantages and disadvantages to it. The disadvantage is that they may regard this as the representative of a sovereign entity-in-the-making. This will not happen.

[Margalit] We have also heard on the news that the Soviet foreign minister says that if things continue like they have been, there will be no cause to hold up the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel. What more has to take place before that happens?

[Ben-Aharon] I think you are just as qualified to answer that as the next man.

[Margalit] But the Soviets have been very specific.

[Ben-Aharon] That is it. The prime minister met with Soviet Prime Minister Pavlov in London only a week ago. This issue was broached, naturally. Pavlov totally agreed with Yitzhaq Shamir that the resumption of ties is a must, that it is logical, and that it will indeed occur in the near future. We have heard that tune for some time now. I hope that the problems and the domestic problems in the USSR notwithstanding, Gorbachev will give his okay and Bessmertnykh will indeed visit Jerusalem and bring with him the USSR's first ambassador to Israel.

[Margalit] So his visit will bring the first ambassador?

[Ben-Aharon] I hope so, but do not take me at my word. I said I hope so. Let me also tell you that it is illogical and unreasonable for a foreign minister of a superpower to visit Israel while there are still no normal diplomatic relations between the two countries.

[Margalit] Thank you very much, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you and shalom.

Paper Pessimistic Over Baker's Trip

TA2504165491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Arabic
25 Apr 91 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Israel Burns the Bridges to Peace"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will return tomorrow to Israel for the fourth time in less than two months within the framework of his shuttle visits to the region. The U.S. State Department has termed the aim of these visits as the establishment of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region according to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Although the U.S. secretary's trip to the region is nearing its end—this is the third one, during which he will have visited Israel four times—and despite all the rumors that have been and continue to be circulated about the success of the U.S. secretary in his mission, the visible evidence so far does not provide any positive indications that the secretary has managed to achieve progress in resolving the conflict and placing the region on the threshold of a peaceful settlement that restores the rights and the homeland to their owners.

Perhaps our pessimism with regard to the success of the U.S. secretary's mission, and especially the fourth one to Israel tomorrow, stems from the fact that the U.S. Administration does not wish to exert any effective pressure on Israel—and it is able and qualified to do so—to force Israel to respect the resolutions of international legitimacy. Added to this is Washington's blind bias in favor of Israel. This makes the U.S. secretary unable to see the facts as they really are, and causes him to accept the rigid Israeli positions and blame the Arab and Palestinian side, which insists on the full implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the convocation of a plenary international peace conference.

While watching and listening with interest to every word uttered by the U.S. secretary in Arab capitals, and while listening closely to what he will say and hear from Israel's leaders, we are fully confident that any attempt to circumvent the PLO's role in the peace process will fail, especially since the Arab parties whom Baker met are still committed to the international peace conference as the suitable framework for any comprehensive and lasting solution and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Palestinian Views on Talks

TA2504165491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Report by correspondent in the territories Arye Gus]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Abu-Ayyash's status as the holder of a green identity card is perceived by Palestinian activists as an Israeli attempt to harm the peace process. Abu-Ayyash is one of the potential participants in meetings with Secretary Baker. His fellow members of

the journalists association today called a news conference in protest. Yusef al-Husayni was one of those who addressed that forum.

[Begin al-Husayni recording, in English] This step toward Mr. Radwan Abu-Ayyash is not far from the efforts that the Israelis are doing now by settling, by widening their settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, by widening their settlements also in Jerusalem. I do believe that it is one of the ways how to fight and how to break the U.S. efforts. [end recording]

[Gus translates and continues] A Palestinian delegation will probably hold its fourth meeting with Secretary Baker tomorrow. The green identity card will be presented to the Americans as an Israeli attempt to dictate to both the Palestinians and the Americans who will and who will not participate in the teams for talks with Baker.

The Palestinians in the territories view the talks that have so far taken place as a certain achievement both in explaining their position to the United States and in influencing the European countries to enhance their role and efforts on behalf of the Palestinian cause. In any event, the Palestinians believe that the process must not stop now.

Ne'eman: 'Israel Did Its Best'

TA2504173091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Science and Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman says new settlements in the territories are not a provocation, and it is important that the Arab side understand that they are part of Israeli Government policy. Ne'eman spoke to reporter Le'a Zinder after addressing the Israel, Britain, and Commonwealth Association in Tel Aviv.

[Begin recording] [Ne'eman] My impression is that he [U.S. Secretary of State James Baker] got completely negative results in Syria. I think that the Israeli Cabinet went very far in trying to compromise and to offer things that, in fact, were agreeable to the Labor Party in the previous Cabinet and which were unthinkable for us. Tehiya. I think that we have at least the right to hear the secretary say that Israel did its best.

[Zinder] Secretary Baker sharply criticized the new settlements in the territories. What do you have to say to that? Do you agree with him that these are an obstacle to peace? How do you respond?

[Ne'eman] Certainly not. I think there are between the U.S. view of what is right and what is wrong in Israel and our view—there are lots of differences, but we have lived with them for 40 years. For instance, why isn't the American Embassy in Jerusalem? The United States doesn't recognize western Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Does this mean that the United States would like us to go back to the partition border of 1947?

[Zinder] Even those who say that the continuation of settlement in the territories were saying: Why this timing? Why the provocation? Why annoy the Americans now, at this stage?

[Ne'eman] It's no provocation. It's very important that whoever wants to make peace with us should know that he is making peace with people who want to settle these areas. So, had we decided to stop for the sake of talks that would have meant a condition already that the peace we are envisaging is one in which we won't be able to settle—and that's not so. [end recording]

Arens on 'Theatrical' Settlements

TA2504191091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky—live]

[Excerpt] [Shlonsky] Mr. Arens, it was reported today that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] stopped a convoy carrying mobile homes to the settlement of Revava. Last week and two weeks ago Gush Emunim managed to move some homes. Who is in control of the area, Gush Emunim or the IDF?

[Arens] The IDF is in control of the area. I am very sorry if here and there there are actions of a theatrical nature rather than genuine acts of settlement. The IDF today stopped the convoy of mobile homes, and the fact is that it is in control of the situation. Seeing that the High Court of Justice is currently reviewing the issue of Revava and is expected to make a decision on Sunday [28 April], we deemed it proper to await the court's decision.

[Shlonsky] And is this not at all related to Baker's visit to the Middle East?

[Arens] This is in no way related to Baker's visit. I reiterate, actions creating the impression that they are related to Baker's visit, theatrical actions rather than settlement acts, do not serve the cause of settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, which is so important.

[Shlonsky] There is a tone of criticism in your words about these settlements, Talmon Bet and Revava, particularly at this time. Am I wrong?

[Arens] I am simply pointing out that attention should be paid to actions rather than to theatrics.

[Shlonsky] In other words, are you against these settlement acts at this point in time?

[Arens] I did not say that. I am simply saying that it ill serves the cause to put the stress on the theatrics rather than on the essence.

[Shlonsky] Can we infer from this that you object to these settlement acts at this time?

[Arens] I did not say that. I do not want to repeat myself for the third time.

[Shlonsky] The impression is that most Cabinet ministers, more or less, are opposed to settlement acts at this time, whether because of Baker's visit or for some other reason, but nobody steps up and says that they think these acts are harmful at this point in time. Why do you think that is?

[Arens] I cannot speak for others. I am telling you loud and clear that I support settlement in Judaea and Samaria. I think it is a very important action from the point of view of Israel's security and as an expression of our rights in those areas. It is a shame if occasionally the impression is given that these are theatrical actions.

[Shlonsky] Do you think that, if his mission were to fail, Baker would or could put the blame on the settlements?

[Arens] I do not think so. He knows that there are over 100,000 Jews in Judaea and Samaria today. Revava is a marginal addition when compared with this figure—by the way, a figure which is constantly growing. If he or his mission were to fail—he is making a great effort—I assume it would be because he had not found a partner or a response on the Arab side. [passage omitted]

Settlement Timing 'Irrelevant' to Visit

TA2504111091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] There is pessimism in Jerusalem about the prospect of the Baker mission, but the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, has expressed the hope that the United States will not be discouraged and will press on with its peace efforts. In an interview with our reporter Jack Katzenell, Ben-Aharon said the right formula can be found and peace is attainable.

Senior Likud circles have criticized the timing of the establishment of the settlement Talmon Bet. Secretary Baker also criticized the decision to establish the settlement, and the U.S. ambassador in Israel delivered a protest to the Foreign Ministry.

However, Prime Ministry Director General Ben-Aharon said the settlement of 10 or 15 families is a marginal issue, at a time when thousands of Kurds are dying and Palestinians are being persecuted in Kuwait.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] Israel cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, say to any Jew that he is not permitted to live in any part of this land which we call Eretz Yisra'el—the Land of Israel, west of the River Jordan. And at the same time, because of American sensitivities—which we appreciate and we understand—we have undertaken a policy, which is really a discriminatory policy with regard to Jews, that we will not direct Russian immigrants to the settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, because the United States and

Congress will hopefully participate in providing us loan guarantees to help provide housing for the immigrants from the Soviet Union.

[Katzenell] Whatever the rights and wrongs of the issue, do not you think it would have been more prudent for Gush Emunim, or whichever organization is involved, to wait a few weeks before establishing Revava or Talmon Bet?

[Ben-Aharon] You know, the timing of Revava and Talmon is arguable, and some will say that at least outwardly it would appear as if we are deliberately offending our friend the United States. But we are trying to maintain a very open and honest attitude toward our allies, and it would not have served any real purpose to hide anything, because Jews are living and will continue to take up residence in these areas, in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and the timing is really irrelevant. We can point to the precedent of the achievement of peace with Egypt, which was done notwithstanding the fact that there were settlements, and settlements have continued being established in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza during the entire course of the negotiations toward the establishment of peace with Egypt. [end recording]

Stand on Regional Forum Remains Firm

TA2604044791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker believes that there is a basis for continuing contacts to convene a regional conference. He expressed his view to Foreign Minister David Levi last night when they travelled together—which has become the norm in recent weeks—from the airport to the King David Hotel. The talk was good and friendly, Levi later told his people. Baker reported to his Israeli counterpart extensively on his talks in the USSR, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. To repeat, Baker believes there is a basis for continuing the political process. The secretary today hopes to receive his Israeli interlocutors' responses to ideas he left behind last Friday [19 April], but Shamir, Levi, and Arens also want to get some answers from him.

We also have questions, Prime Minister Shamir said this week during ministerial consultations in Jerusalem. Questions most likely to be presented to the secretary of state are: Where has Saudi Arabia, which was supposed to be taking part in the process, disappeared to? What happened to Syria? Is it prepared to give up its demands for an international peace conference under UN auspices? If Saudi Arabia and Syria are out, then can Jordan be relied upon not to change its stand? Baker will be reminded that King Husayn does not like to be isolated in his moves and to take risks. In general, can we depend on a king who at one time sides with the United States and Egypt and at another with Saddam Husayn?

It appears that there has been no change in the Israeli positions. Baker will be told no to participation by a Palestinian representative from East Jerusalem; no to any sort of linkage between the representatives from the territories and the PLO; yes in principle to EC participation in the conference; no to UN auspices.

Baker will have to try to work out joint Israeli-U.S. positions, to which he has referred, on the basis of these firm Israeli positions in any bid to advance the political process.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 26 April quotes Arye Golan as reporting that "Israeli leaders will tell Baker today that Israel does not agree to any aspects of an international conference within the planned regional conference. Israel does not agree to UN auspices for the meeting and does not agree to the participation of an East Jerusalem representative."]

Ben-Aharon on Visit, Peace Prospects

TA2604055091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know whether you heard the report by 'Oded Ben-'Ami from Washington. In any case, the U.S. media report that Baker's mission is on the verge of failure. There is a lot of pessimism there about Baker's mission. Is that also the feeling in the Prime Minister's Office?

[Ben-Aharon] We will hear from Secretary of State Baker in several hours; the prime minister is about to meet with him, so I would not reach any hasty conclusions. I believe that what the secretary of state will also hear from his Israeli interlocutors is that we must not lose hope, because all of us—especially Israel—pin hopes on the efforts by the United States, which is the superpower with the greatest influence in the Middle East. It has a high status both in Israel and in most of the Arab states. Since to our regret there is not a single Arab leader prepared to negotiate directly with us, it is important that the United States continues in its efforts, even if there are difficulties. We had anticipated difficulties, especially from Syria. We are, of course, disappointed that Saudi Arabia has bolted the process, but we must not lose hope.

[Einstein] You say that there is no Arab leader ready for direct negotiations. Does that include King Husayn? Lately there had been optimism about the Jordanian option.

[Ben-Aharon] It is possible that the optimism was due to the fact that King Husayn was isolated after siding with

Saddam Husayn and some of Saddam's failure was reflected on him. Husayn was therefore very interested in rejoining some respectable circle, especially with the United States. He is therefore radiating some positive positions, but all that will be tested—or has already been tested—when he is presented with challenges and questions: Are you prepared to coopt Palestinians to the Jordanian delegation and negotiate directly with Israel? I hope we will receive answers today.

[Einstein] We heard that he is ready to if the Palestinians ask him. We can assume that when he says if the Palestinians ask him, he means that if the PLO calls on him to do so.

[Ben-Aharon] That is the problem. If the game is that he passes on responsibility to the PLO, and the PLO says yes on condition that it is recognized, we have reentered the same vicious circle from which we will not be able to extricate ourselves. I repeat, Israel has shown the secretary of state more than just a readiness to meet the Arabs halfway by agreeing to the regional conference—which is not exactly an Israeli invention—so that the Arabs will not have an excuse to get out of the need to sit with us at the negotiating table and to talk only with us, and to take responsibility for the direct negotiations and their outcome.

[Einstein] Do you believe that this time Baker will bring up the settlement issue as well? We heard that he has been very sharply critical about Talmon and Revava. A sharp protest was issued to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem on that issue.

[Ben-Aharon] He has raised that in the past and I believe that his ambassador in Israel has already done his job in contacts with the Foreign Ministry. I believe that the United States has known the Israeli position on settlements for a long time. I believe that just as it was not an obstacle for negotiations and an arrangement with one neighbor, it also will not be a stumbling block in the future.

[Einstein] What about the report from Washington by our correspondent that the U.S. secretary of housing and urban development will not meet with our construction and housing minister because he is speeding up the settlement drive?

[Ben-Aharon] I would be wary about such a report. I heard that our construction and housing minister is going to the United States and that he has a meeting planned with a strong friend of the State of Israel, one of our leading friends in the U.S. Administration and the Republican Party. I suggest we wait and see. I believe the meeting will take place.

Levi, Baker Agree on Five Points

TA2604084791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0757 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] The Shamir-Baker meeting is continuing in Jerusalem, but in the meantime, new information has been

divulged from the Levi-Baker meeting, which ended less than an hour ago. Natan Gutman, our correspondent in Jerusalem, reports from outside the Foreign Ministry:

Very important information has been released from the Levi-Baker meeting. Israel and the United States agreed on five or six main points. These are in fact Israel's answers to Baker's questions. Israel and the United States agreed on the following points:

1. Soviet participation in the conference after the secretary of state satisfied Israel's requirements about the Soviet position and the way it viewed the substance and procedure of the conference.
2. Israel is considering favorably European participation in the political process, in a conference aimed at advancing the process. The exact meaning of the participation will be decided in a meeting between Levi and the EC ministers on 14 May in Brussels.
3. Israel wants to anchor through complete understanding the agreements that the regional conference will not have any powers to impose decisions, reach decisions, or refer to decisions.
4. Israel will consider favorably the principle of reconvening the conference from time to time to receive reports on progress in bilateral negotiations after receiving Israel's prior agreement whenever such a meeting is required.
5. The name of the conference proposed by Israel will be a regional conference for direct negotiations for peace. Israel believes this name suits the role of the conference.
6. Israel believes the conference has an additional role: to deal with matters that pertain to issues of mutual regional interest, such as water, economics, energy, and limiting the arms race.

You have probably realized that two main points are missing: East Jerusalem and the United Nations. Israel's answers to those are most likely negative. That is what Baker meant when he said that there are issues on which agreement has still not been reached. In reference to the points of agreement, Israel is ready to yield on the conference being a one-time affair and to coopt Europe into the process, as well as to continue the conference's existence on joint regional issues. That certainly means progress in the talks here. We assume that in the Shamir-Baker meeting now in progress those subjects are being discussed, along with the issue of who will participate in the conference. Those agreements are the first stage in any progress. We have already heard Baker say after leaving the Foreign Ministry that the answers received from Israel provide room for continuing the process. The pessimism might therefore have been premature.

Further on Baker-Levi Meeting

TA2604094691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0905 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Excerpt] We have learned initial information about what Foreign Minister Levi said in this morning's meeting with Secretary of State Baker. Levi told the secretary that the United States must not view its role as merely a mediator. Mediatory efforts failed in the past, and the United States must make clear to the Arab states Israel's determination to reach peace and to lead the peace process to direct negotiations. The United States is being asked to make clear to the Arab states its interest in forging a Middle East peace. Levi also told Baker that it would be artificial and unrealistic to compare the real obstacles the Arab states have injected into the process with the difficulties Israel is allegedly presenting. There is no similarity, Levi told Baker, and suggestions that such a similarity exists must not be made. Israel wants peace through direct negotiations, its position is positive, and it should not be contrasted with the negative positions of the Arab states as though the two stands were on par, Levi said. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 26 April, in a report by political correspondent Natan Gutman, adds that "Levi told Baker that we will not agree to any PLO participation. Baker replied: That issue is agreed upon. Regarding the Palestinian delegation, Levi said Israel views as possible a joint delegation representing Jordan and the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and in accordance with a prior agreement that the Palestinian delegation will not be linked to the PLO." Gutman corrects the name of the conference to "the regional conference for the opening of direct negotiations for peace." In reference to the reconvening of the conference, it was agreed that it will not be reconvened earlier than six months after the initial meeting, and it will be done only with the agreement of both sides."]

Palestinians Express 'Dismay'

TA2604102491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Report by 'Ido Shargil]

[Text] The Palestinian delegation that will meet this afternoon with James Baker will be identical to the one that held talks with him last time. It will be led by Faysal al-Husayni, and its other members will be Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha and Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi—all of them identified with the PLO mainstream.

The delegation members are currently in session to discuss the latest developments and the agreements that were reportedly reached between Israel and the United States.

This morning's AL-FAJR editorial details the Palestinian positions in anticipation of the meeting with Baker.

The delegation will present a manifesto with the resolutions the PLO's Central Council adopted this week in Tunis. It will also wish to hear about the outcome of

Baker's talks in the region and the U.S. ideas for the solution of the conflict. The delegation members will again stress their objection to the settlements and the suffering of the Palestinian people due to the Israeli rule.

In initial reactions to the agreements, dismay was expressed over these developments. Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, the chairman of the Gaza Bar Association, said that what had been achieved is insufficient. We want an effort that will lead to the solution of the entire conflict, he said, not isolated incidents that will lead to the solution of individual, marginal problems.

Likud Leaders Criticize Agreements

TA2604112991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1050 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] The Shamir-Baker meeting ended one minute ago, and Baker has left the Prime Minister's Office although he has a scheduled meeting with Defense Minister Moshe Arens in 20 minutes. Minister Moshe Arens has already arrived at the Prime Minister's Office and is now most probably meeting with the prime minister and being updated on Mr. Shamir's talks with Secretary of State Baker in a meeting which lasted several hours and in which the issues still not agreed upon between the United States and Israel were discussed. These include the inclusion of an East Jerusalem representative to the regional conference. The Shamir-Baker meeting lasted four hours.

In the meantime, senior Likud officials are already responding to at least some of the understandings reached between Foreign Minister Levi and Secretary of State Baker: The agreement to convene the regional conference every six months to receive an update, not to impose solutions, is being criticized, and there are those who claim that Israel is thereby deteriorating to an on-going international conference, which is unacceptable to Israel. Some of the policymakers in Jerusalem say that what is missing is the Israeli condition that an agreement on Soviet participation in the regional conference depends on the resumption of USSR-Israeli diplomatic relations. The Likud leadership also has reservations about the understandings reached this morning in the Levi-Baker talks.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1114 GMT on 26 April adds that "Israel agrees to Soviet participation in the political process, but on two conditions: the resumption of diplomatic relations and Soviet acceptance of all the agreements reached between the Governments of Israel and the United States on the current initiative, the regional conference."]

Shamir-Baker Talks Interrupted

TA2604114791 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1105 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Interview with Avi Pazner, Prime Minister Shamir's media adviser, by Arye Golan, outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Golan] Is Baker returning to the United States straight away because of the death of his mother?

[Pazner] Mr. Baker received the news of his mother's death in a telephone conversation during his talks with the prime minister. He went into another room, spoke to his sister in the United States, and decided on the spot to return to the United States. It is, of course, not the suspension of his mission. The talk with the prime minister lasted three and a half hours, during which the prime minister received a report on Mr. Baker's talks in the countries of the region and the USSR. They also began to discuss the issues on the agenda, but to our regret the sad news came of the passing away of Mr. Baker's mother. We were forced to cancel the meeting with Defense Minister Arens, and Secretary Baker told us that he wants to fly home immediately.

[Golan] About the contents of the talks, Mr. Pazner, how did the prime minister take the understandings reached this morning in the Baker-Levi talks?

[Pazner] I can only say that due to the fact that the talks were cut off in the middle, nothing was finalized in the meeting between the prime minister and Mr. Baker. Many issues were raised on the modalities of the planned meeting between the countries in the region and the participants—Palestinian participation, the super-powers, etc.

[Golan] Was the participation of an East Jerusalem representative in the Palestinian delegation discussed?

[Pazner] I do not want to go into detail since as I said, nothing was finalized because the talk was interrupted due to the sad news of Mr. Baker's loss. The prime minister expressed the condolences of the Israeli Government and his personal condolences over Baker's loss. The two agreed that the effort to convene the meeting and to continue the talks will go on. How and when has not yet been decided.

Arens Expresses 'Misgivings'

TA2604132391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens is one of the Likud officials who have misgivings about the agreement reached this morning between James Baker and David Levi. Our political correspondent Arye Golan notes that Arens fears that an agreement to reconvene the regional conference periodically might transform it into an international conference. The agreement reached by Levi and Baker states that the conference may be reconvened

occasionally—but at intervals of no less than six months—to be updated and to discuss regional matters such as water and energy issues and the arms race. Secretary Baker phoned Minister Arens and apologized for having to cut short his visit in Israel due to the death of his mother in Houston, Texas.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Palestinian delegation that had been scheduled to confer with Mr. Baker handed the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem a memorandum that, in addition to inviting Baker to tour the territories, states that every visit by the U.S. secretary brings in its wake a new wave of Israeli actions, such as settlement, land expropriation, and civil rights restrictions.

Arens on Intentions of Arab Nations

TA2504144691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens favors direct negotiations over any kind of peace conference. At the same time, Arens believes that some of the Arab countries have no incentive to arrive at a peace agreement with Israel and thinks there is no need to force them to do that. Our military affairs correspondent Amir Fink reports:

[Begin recording] [Fink] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that the list of Arab rulers who do not want to make peace with Israel is not short. Negotiations are possible with some of the Arab countries, but there is no need to negotiate with all of them, the defense minister said.

[Arens] I doubt the sincerity of the Arab country or the Arab ruler who is not prepared to sit with us around the table to conduct direct negotiations, and who demands this opening, cover, and screen. It is not clear to me whether they have good intentions to conduct negotiations with us, or perhaps they have some other intentions. Nevertheless, we are also prepared to risk that to see where this may lead. At the moment, the signs we have been getting are that the Arab countries are trying to take this tool, the one-time encounter, and push it in the direction of an international conference. They want to add more countries to give their auspices to the encounter; they want to change its name from encounter to conference; they think about meetings rather than a one-time encounter—all sorts of additions which can easily turn this one-time encounter into an international conference which, as I have said, I do not think would be a forum conducive to peace.

[Fink] U.S. Secretary of State Baker is trying to further a two-track approach involving the Palestinians and the Arab countries, Minister Arens said. We must try to implement a five-track plan, which would include the government's four-point plan and an additional fifth point: cutting arms supplies to the region. [end recording]

Says Land for Peace Reminiscent of Hitler

TA2504164291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Regarding territories for peace, Minister Arens said that this is a new invention, a new formula which is totally wrong.

[Begin Arens recording] It seems to me that we have long ceased to believe in it. The last person who talked about territory for peace in the open was the man who led Germany in the 1930's and claimed that if he was only given this land and that land, peace would reign in the world. [end recording]

Gush Emunim Brings 6 Mobile Homes to Revava

TA2504142891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Gush Emunim has brought another six mobile homes to the settlement of Revava and stationed them at the site. Another 10 mobile homes were stopped and not set up on settlement grounds.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this morning Gush Emunim members brought 16 mobile homes to Revava. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] blocked the convoy, claiming that the move had not been coordinated with the Army. The Defense Ministry investigated the issue, and as a result it was decided to defer the placement of the mobile homes because the issue of Revava is about to be debated at the High Court of Justice in the next few days. Gush Emunim personnel nevertheless managed to place six mobile homes and removed only 10, which have not yet been assigned a plot of land in the new settlement. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 25 April reports that seven mobile homes were set in Revava and that nine were stopped at the settlement of Barqan. All in all, the report says, there are 21 mobile homes and 10 families in Revava.]

Revava Planned as 'Urban Settlement'

TA2604095591 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 26 Apr 91 p 2

[Report by Tzvi Singer and Hayim Broida]

[Excerpt] Revava is planned to be converted into an urban settlement with 1,100 apartments and more than 4,000 inhabitants in the first stage. The settlement is built on state-owned land in addition to private land purchased by the Fund for the Deliverance of Land.

This emerges from an internal document drawn up in the Construction and Housing Ministry back in late October 1990. It was drafted by Hayim Zimmer, the Ministry official in charge of public institutions and auxiliary development in the Central District.

During a meeting at the Ministry on 23 October attended by senior officials, program outlines for the construction of Revava were finalized. The following details emerge from the document:

—The settlement program is based on 226 dunams of private land owned by the Fund for the Deliverance of Land, as well as on 140 dunams of land declared state-owned. As will be recalled, when they inhabited Revava, the settlers contended that the settlement is based exclusively on private land. The document refutes these arguments.

The document also shows that between the private and declared state-owned land there is an enclave of private land that is not owned by the settlers. It seems that the Fund for the Deliverance of Land appealed to the Construction and Housing Ministry with a request for a plan of an overall 366 dunams for a separate urban settlement.

—According to the Ministry's proposal, the first neighborhood with 1,100 housing units is planned to be set up on that land. According to estimates, at that stage the settlement will be populated by 4,180 individuals. If a decision is made to increase the number of units in the future, the plan will be redrafted and updated accordingly. According to the plans, a day care center plus nine preschool and 18 elementary school classes are going to be built, as well as a community center, a youth club, a clinic, several synagogues and playgrounds, a commercial center and a post office. An area will likewise be allocated for two other stores outside the commercial center. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 26 April in a report by Yizhar Be'er on page A3 adds that "the Army yesterday declared the Revava area a military zone closed to the press.

["HA'ARETZ has learned that Gush Emunim plans to continue to expand Jewish settlement in the territories in the near future in a method similar to the establishment of the Alon neighborhood in Kfar Adumim and Talmon Bet. Officially this will only be the fleshing out of existing settlements, but in effect these will be new points, some of them distant and separate from the current settlement."]

USSR Ties, Bessmertnykh Visit Viewed

TA2504171491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir said this evening that Secretary Baker may bring with him information about the possibility of the resumption of relations between Israel and the USSR. He was talking to our correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Official sources in Jerusalem have told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that Moscow has not yet made direct contact to set the date and the timetable for Foreign

Minister Bessmertnykh's visit to Israel, but that if he comes he will be a welcome guest.

Reportage on Plans for Water, Power Plants

Ne'eman on Plan for Locally Made Plant

TA2504164891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Yuval Ne'eman, the energy and infrastructure, science and technology minister, said that the principles and appropriations for the establishment in Israel of a locally manufactured nuclear power plant, which he believes will be more efficient and safer than similar foreign-made plants, will soon be consolidated.

He also reported that he has decided to increase by 1 million metric tons per annum the quantity of oil Israel will import by contract. A deal on this will soon be signed with Britain. Our correspondent Shmuel Tal reports that Minister Ne'eman was speaking at the meeting of the Israel Management Center in Tel Aviv.

Talks With USSR on Nuclear Desalination

TA2604100691 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
26 Apr 91 p 1

[Report by Pazit Ravina]

[Excerpts] The Israeli Government is currently holding negotiations with the Soviet Union for the purchase of a nuclear reactor. The reactor is a 500-megawatt facility which has integrated desalination installations. The sole existing Soviet model is located on a Caspian Sea peninsula. It provides water for a closed nuclear city called Shevchenko, to uranium mines, and to the nearby nuclear plant. The USSR's declining economic situation in the past few months has made the deal a realistic possibility. The Soviets will probably supply not only the reactor but also the nuclear fuel rods.

An Israeli delegation, one of whose members was Amnon 'Enav, the chief scientist in the Energy and Infrastructure Ministry, visited Moscow about a month ago. The delegation was accompanied by two desalination engineers from Adan Technologies who represented businessman Ya'akov Nimrodi. Dan Zaslavsky, adviser to Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan, was also supposed to have gone with them. During its visit, the delegation signed a preliminary agreement with the Soviet Academy of Sciences about the reactor. Vladimir Velikhov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, is expected in Israel next week to pursue high-level contacts. He will be the guest of Energy and Infrastructure Minister Yuval Ne'eman. [passage omitted]

The technology for the purification of water using nuclear energy is a unique Soviet development. The West began similar projects in the 1960's but they were subsequently shelved. The only active plant of this type in the USSR is in Shevchenko, a closed scientific town in the steppes of Kazakhstan near the Caspian coast. The nuclear plant itself is located on a peninsula and up until a year ago was classified secret. All the plant directors are Russian and any visit to Shevchenko requires special permits.

During the Israeli delegation's visit, the Soviets presented three types of desalination plants, including a future model based on the kind of floating reactor that can be found on nuclear ice breakers. The delegation explained, however, that Israel is only interested in the 500-megawatt energy-generating type of plant with integrated desalination installations. The delegation's reports after the visit were by and large positive.

In reaction, Ya'akov Nimrodi told DAVAR: "It is too early to discuss the matter at this juncture. We will know where we stand after Velikhov's visit next week." [passage omitted]

[Another report by Pazit Ravina on the same page of DAVAR says that Amnon 'Enav, the chief Energy Ministry scientist, "confirmed that a delegation had indeed gone to the Soviet Union 'to examine, among other things, the issue of nuclear desalination. The issue is broad, complex, and very expensive," he said, "but we are continuing our contacts. We have not yet finished examining the matter and are reviewing ways to continue our cooperation." On Shevchenko, the chief scientist said: "I can only say that such a reactor exists in Kazakhstan."]

Ne'eman Denies Talks on Soviet Reactor

TA2604101391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Energy and Infrastructure Minister Yuval Ne'eman said his ministry is not dealing with the procurement of a nuclear reactor from the USSR. He said the director general of his ministry did not go to Moscow for that purpose. Minister Ne'eman made the remarks to our correspondent Shmuel Tal who asked for his reaction to a report published this morning in DAVAR that the government is conducting negotiations to purchase from the USSR a reactor for desalination purposes. Minister Ne'eman told our correspondent that he knows the subject has been brought up as part of an attempt by businessman Ya'akov Nimrodi to purchase such a reactor, but that such a reactor has not yet been developed.

PSP Reportedly Begins To Hand Over Weapons**VOL Reports Transfer**

NC2504121891 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
1015 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] In a telephone conversation between this station and Defense Minister Michel al-Murr, the defense minister revealed that Minister Walid Junblatt contacted him today and told him that the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] began handing over the weapons the PSP had obtained from the Syrians in al-Biq'a'.

Our representative says that the handing over process is the result of an agreement Junblatt reached with General Hikmat al-Shihabi [Syrian Army chief of staff] during Junblatt's recent visit to Syria.

Weapons Detailed

NC2504143391 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
1145 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] We have just received an urgent REUTER report citing Progressive Socialist Party sources as saying that this morning the PSP started handing over its heavy- and medium-caliber weapons to the Syrian Army deployed in the Jabal Lubnan area. The agency cites the same sources as saying the handover is taking place at a PSP-controlled barracks in the village of 'Ayn Zhalta in the al-Shuf region. The agency adds that the party also will hand over to the Syrian troops its weapons and ammunition stored in warehouses in the village of Kafra in western al-Biq'a', eastern Lebanon.

The same sources add that among the weapons being handed over to the Syrian Army are Soviet-made T-54 tanks, armored vehicles, heavy-caliber artillery, rocket launchers, antiarmor weapons, and Soviet-made SAM-7 surface-to-air missiles. The agency gave no details on the number of weapons being handed over to the Syrian troops.

PSP leader and Minister of State Walid Junblatt stated earlier that he would hand over his party's weapons to the party that provided them—Syria—and that he would return the weapons that belong to the Lebanese army to army officials.

Party Source Denies Transfer

NC2504180791 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1730 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] A military source in the Progressive Socialist Party has said that the PSP gathered its weapons today. The source stressed that the PSP is committed to the implementation of the cabinet decisions within the time-tables it has set.

The source denied news agency and media reports that the PSP started to hand over its weapons today.

Dib Says Lebanese Forces Will Surrender Weapons

NC2604071291 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
0530 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Roger Dib, minister of state and Lebanese Forces representative, yesterday met with President al-Hirawi and told him that the Lebanese Forces are committed to the Cabinet's decision. Minister Dib pointed out that the Lebanese Forces will abide by the decision on the disbandment of the militias and the weapons handover.

In a statement following the meeting, Minister Dib said: We would like to assure all Lebanese that the Lebanese Forces will spare no effort in following the path outlined in the accord. Lebanese Forces sources have said that the weapons handover will begin within a few days, before 30 April. The sources stressed that the group was willing to abide by the Cabinet's decision in full and said that the state is committed to resolving the problem surrounding militia members.

Iranian Meets Al-Hirawi, Comments on Hostages

NC2604072991 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon* 0630 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Muhammad Javad Zamanian, Iranian charge d'affaires in Beirut, has expressed the hope that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd will be released so that a solution of the issue of the foreign hostages will be facilitated.

Commenting after a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Zamanian said: We discussed bilateral relations in general. As was natural, we also discussed some regional issues.

Asked how the Islamic Republic can help Lebanon with regard to the dissolution of the militias, Zamanian said: We have declared our readiness to help Lebanon in all fields.

Fadlallah on Palestinian Weapons, Hostages

NC2604143491 (*Clandestine*) *Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic* 1345 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Excerpts] In an interview with our radio and AL-MASIRAH magazine, Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said the ongoing debate about the Palestinian weapons is primarily aimed at establishing relations of a specific type between Palestinians on the one hand and different Arab regimes on the other. This debate ultimately aims to put pressure on Palestinians to make concessions, he said. [passage omitted]

He said the Palestinian question has never been a Lebanese matter, but an international issue located within regional borders.

Fadlallah believes that we are at a dead end, in which gaps may appear. However, he stressed, we have to know that what is required at the international level is to resolve the Lebanese issue with the exclusion of the South, leaving the South as an arena in which Lebanon

and other countries may interact in integration with the West Bank, Gaza strip, the Golan Heights, and the entire region's problem.

Fadlallah contends that the al-Ta'if agreement is not genuine. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question on the issue of Western hostages, Fadlallah said the issue has ripened. However, he remarked, it will not be discussed in Lebanon.

Khaddam, Hizballah Review 'Resistance' to Israel

NC2604055591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0415 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] A Hizballah delegation met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus yesterday. Hizballah sources said Khaddam stressed the need to bolster the resistance and activate its role, adding that the discussions dealt with the latest developments in Lebanon and the resistance against Israel.

The subject of Iranian weapons, especially those of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, will be discussed between Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus tomorrow.

Israeli Patrol Ambushed; Overflights Reported

NC2504121091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Regarding the security situation in the south, an Israeli patrol was ambushed on the Haddathah al-Tiri road at 0645 today and a number of shells were fired at an Israeli position in Tallat Bayt Yahun.

The Islamic Resistance issued a statement indicating that it detonated an explosive device as a motorized South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol was passing on the

al-Tiri-Bint Jubayl road. The resistance did not report any casualties; however, reports say that two SLA members were killed and a number of others were wounded.

At approximately 0845, Israeli forces fired approximately 30 shells at the town of Haddathah, wounding a female citizen who was taken to the American University Hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes flew over the city of Sidon and the Palestinian camps on reconnaissance sorties. They then flew over the capital, breaking the sound barrier at approximately 1115.

2 Killed, 3 Wounded in Southern Zone Explosion

NC2504114691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that an explosive device went off as a South Lebanese Army patrol was passing the road leading to al-Tiri in the security zone. The explosion went off at approximately 0800 today. According to preliminary information, two people were killed and three were wounded.

Hizballah Radio on Artillery Clashes Near Sidon

NC2604081591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 26 Apr 91

[Text] Security sources have reported that violent artillery clashes took place between Islamic and nationalist forces and agent Lahd's militiamen on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mirr lines east of Sidon yesterday evening. The sources said that the exchange of shelling, especially that involving the use of 155-mm guns, began at approximately 1600 yesterday, expanded, and continued fiercely for six hours. Some shells hit the town of Majdalyun near Sidon. The sources were unable to provide an estimate of the casualty toll caused by the shelling.

Commentary Rejects Compromise on Territories

JN2504163391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The world's attention is focused on the Middle East. Government officials and political observers are following with great interest U.S. Secretary James Baker's tour, hoping that his efforts will result in relaxation in an area which has been yearning for peace for over 40 years. French President Mitterrand and the German chancellor reflected this collective international trend when they demanded real peace and a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian people's problem on the basis of UN resolutions. When we follow up Secretary Baker's talks in the area states, we clearly sense that the Arab side was sincerely and responsibly responsive to the international trend. Secretary Baker spent over nine hours of talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. There was mutual concern about making the peace efforts successful and about extricating the Middle East from the cycle of ordeals and wars. The only way to achieve this is through a durable and comprehensive settlement which meets rights and justice and which ends the occupation.

We do not believe that there is a cause in the world that is more just than the Palestine question: The Palestinian people have been evicted from their land; they have suffered under occupation; and hundreds of resolutions have been issued by the United Nations in an attempt to give them fair treatment and to enable them to exercise their natural rights, including their right to self-determination and compensation for the grave injustice they have been subjected to. The resolutions remained mere ink on paper, pending the United Nations' shouldering of its responsibilities and pending the international community performing its real task of spreading justice and equality and supporting the peoples subjected to repression and occupation.

Following the international community's success in tackling the Gulf crisis, an opportunity is available to extinguish an explosive and dangerous situation in the Middle East, which has negative repercussions on the world's march toward relaxation, security, stability, and the establishment of relations of cooperation in the interest of peoples' prosperity and welfare. Through cooperation with the Soviet Union, the EC, and the United Nations, the United States has made intensive efforts to crystallize the bases of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict stemming from UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Nobody ignores or casts doubts on the United States' ability to assist the peace process. Hence, the sincere Arab responsiveness to the U.S. efforts and the Syrian eagerness to render Secretary Baker's mission successful in achieving a real and firm peace.

A fact that will not be missed by anyone in the United States or any other state, is that a settlement cannot achieve its objectives unless it is based on a set of facts and basic principles, headed by the Israeli withdrawal

from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, recognizing the Palestinian people's rights, and establishing peace in the region through international guarantees. This requires the participation of the United Nations in the aspired peace conference and guarantees for all parties by the UN Security Council permanent member states. This is because the conflict in the region is a conflict between the Arabs and Israel and because a solution should be comprehensive and remove any future threat.

Israel lives in a world of its own. While Secretary Baker was continuing his visits and heads of governments and states were expressing support for the U.S. efforts, Israeli officials were building a new settlement and declaring that they were not prepared to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, especially from Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. They also insist on keeping the Palestinian people under occupation, claim the right to continue settlement activities, and provide strange and amazing interpretations to UN resolutions.

Moreover, they reject any role by the United Nations in dealing with the most dangerous crisis hitting the region and threatening the entire world peace. Secretary Baker himself denounced Israel's building of a new settlement and considered settlement activity an obstacle to peace efforts. Clearly, the Israeli leaders do not want a solution, settlement, or peace. They want to continue implementing the Judaization schemes, expansion, and the establishment of what they call greater Israel. They also want to maintain an explosive situation in the region. The world and the international community reject this. Moreover, this is rejected by prominent Jews, who are demanding that the United States save Israel from itself.

Yesterday, Shamir declared that Israel was not ready to return the Golan Heights to Syria. He said he did not exactly know what Syria wants. We answer: Syria wants a just, comprehensive peace in the region based on UN resolutions and the international community's guarantees—a peace that achieves the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon. There will be no compromise over the occupied territories or the Palestinian rights no matter how long the conflict lasts.

Paper Says U.S. Must Stop Supporting Israel

JN2604063391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 26 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary holding Israel responsible for obstructing peace and the efforts to achieve it in the Middle East, AL-THAWRAH says: Whenever the world reaches a consensus on a sincere desire to establish a regional peace based on righteousness and justice, Israel attempts to undermine unanimity and desire by falsely interpreting international resolutions, adhering to occupation, denying Palestinian Arab rights, and rejecting the peace conference.

Israeli leaders are doing exactly the same now in their handling of current U.S. moves to achieve a settlement to the conflict that is based on the application of international laws, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338.

The paper stresses that with such a policy, Israel wants to impose a settlement on its own terms and not in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the requirements for peace and justice. The paper adds: Israel is once again showing its contempt for the international community and its legitimacy. Israel is also showing its refusal to submit to the international community's will, thereby creating tension in the region and placing it on the brink of war.

AL-THAWRAH clarifies that the Arabs have not hesitated in making the greatest efforts and sacrifices for the sake of achieving a just solution that would keep the specter and tragedy of war out of the region and put an end to the Palestinian people's plight and tragedy. The paper says: That is why the Arabs have supported international legitimacy and adopted all its resolutions that are related to the conflict and the Palestine question. They have also backed all sincere efforts based on international legitimacy and the application of its resolutions. Israel, however, has stood on the opposite side. It has adhered to occupation and turned its back on international unanimity on the need for peace and the implementation of the resolutions that would achieve it.

In the face of Israel's intransigent stand and its obstruction of peace and the efforts to achieve it, AL-THAWRAH believes that the world and the United States have a responsibility to confront Israel's intransigence, apply pressure on it, and stop all forms of support for it.

The paper concludes by saying: When support to Israel is halted, it will feel isolated on the international level. Only then might Israel submit to international legitimacy, which must prove that it is credible and that it is using a single standard in dealing with the issues in the region.

Paper Comments on Dissolving Lebanese Militias

JN2504091291 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 25 Apr (SANA)—In a commentary today titled "Reconciliation in a New Phase," AL-THAWRAH says: The start of dissolving the militias on the basis of abiding by the salvation process and the implementation of reconciliation, constitutes the most important step to restore normal life to a united Lebanon, land and people.

The paper adds: The bringing of the state's authority to bear over all Lebanese territories—with all that it requires in terms of good intentions and the mobilization of national energies of all honorable Lebanese who care about Lebanon's security, land, and future—will speed up a new phase in the national salvation program based on the national reconciliation document. This phase will be important in the confrontation against the Zionist enemy's expansionist schemes to consolidate the Zionist occupation of southern Lebanon.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: When the legitimate government completes the steps to control the internal situation on the basis of reconciliation, it will enjoy Syria's unlimited support and will be able to intensify its efforts toward liberating southern Lebanon, which is a national and pan-Arab duty that the one and united Lebanon will be able to shoulder under legitimate institutions.

Cooperation Viewed With Iranian Commerce Minister

JN2504174591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus, 25 Apr (SANA)—This evening, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Iranian Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji.

They discussed ways to promote and expand bilateral cooperation in all fields.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the commerce minister and by the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Capture District in Ghowr Province

BK2504133891 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, another district, (Latcheran), in the central province of Ghowr, has fallen to mujahidin. Mujahidin captured the district after a fierce battle with the Kabul regime forces. They killed a large number of regime troops and captured a huge quantity of arms and ammunition.

Another report from Ghowr Province says that mujahidin captured over a dozen security posts of the Kabul regime in the freed areas. At least 14 Kabul regime troops were killed during attacks by mujahidin.

An agency report says Afghan mujahidin launched an attack on a military supply convoy on Towraghousi area and killed 20 Kabul regime troops. They also seized huge quantity of arms and ammunition. The report adds that the mujahidin have started their operations to block Kabul regime supplies to Herat. [Words indistinct] and caused heavy loss in men and materiel to the convoy.

Mujahidin Government President Interviewed

BK2504145991 Lahore THE NATION in English
25 Apr 91 p 14

[Text] Peshawar—The Afghan Interim Government [AIG] President, Prof. Sebghatullah Mojaddedi has said that nobody can prevent Afghan Mujahidin from setting up an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

The AIG President alleged that Najib Government fired Scud missiles on Asadabad with a view to harass the Mujahidin. He opined that after capturing Khowst, the Mujahidin are planning to launch attacks on other cities including Gardeyz Jalalabad and Qalat and for foiling such attempts the Najib Government fired Scuds on Asadabad.

The Afghan leader in an interview told THE NATION that such act of the Najib Government should be condemned widely as it was against United Nations Charter on Human Rights. In this connection the AIG will lodge a protest with the United Nations, he remarked.

He also said that United Nations and other world countries should force Najib to refrain from such type of attacks on the civilian people living in the Mujahidin controlled areas of Afghanistan.

Commenting on the fall of Khowst to Mujahidin, Prof. Mojaddedi termed it a great set back to Najib government and a big achievement of the Mujahidin since withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He expressed the hope Mujahidin will go ahead with such victories and would capture other cities in near future.

Afghan problem was impossible [as published] as most of the Mujahidin and refugees were against talking to Najib, he added.

The AIG President admitted that inner differences amongst Mujahidin ranks were the main hurdle in way of the Mujahidin victories. However, despite differences majority of Mujahidin commanders, 'ulema, tribal chiefs and intellectuals support the Interim Government, he claimed.

Levelling serious allegations against Engineer Golbuddin Hekmatyar and Prof. 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, he said that both the forces were conspiring not only against the interim Government but also creating splits among the Mujahidin which goes in favour of the Najib Government.

Prof. Mojaddedi further said that he along with other leaders of the AIG visited Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Fahd and exchanged views with him on recent political development.

Answering to a question, he made it clear that neither America nor Soviet Union can find out a durable political settlement to the Afghan problem. He said that Afghan Interim Government should be taken into confidence before launching any move for the political solution to Afghan problem. He also said that Afghan people can control the situation after the fall of Najib Government. He said that all the world countries should assist the AIG for peacefully replacing the Najib Government.

India

Congress-I Boycotts Punjab Polls, Parties React

BK2504164691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The Congress-I today decided not to take part in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections in Punjab. A resolution adopted by the Congress-I working committee in New Delhi today said the party is not willing to participate in a process from which, it says, only secessionists and terrorists can benefit. It said conditions for a free and fair election should be created first and candidates as well as people must be made to feel secure. This is possible only when the election process in Punjab is completely delinked from polling in the rest of the country. The resolution said the party's decision to participate in the Assam elections shows that it is willing to face threats and risks to its candidates as part of the political process. But in Punjab the issue is not winning or losing, but the integrity of the country. Talking to newsmen, party spokesman Mr. Pranab Mukherjee claimed that the law and order situation in Punjab is not under control and the administration cannot insure a free and fair election.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] says it will contest elections, if adequate security is provided to the candidates during the campaign. The party vice president, Mr. S.S. Bandari, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the representatives of major political parties will be meeting in Chandigarh soon to chalk out a joint strategy against candidates put up by militant groups.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has ruled out any understanding of formation of a united front with the Congress-I or BJP for elections in the state. The party spokesman, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, said his party is likely to contest four Lok Sabha and 25 assembly seats.

The Janata Dal is working for an alliance with the left parties in Punjab. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said the militants have no goodwill in Punjab and would be defeated in the elections.

The president of Pheruman Akali Dal, Mahant Sevasdas Singh, has filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking postponement of the elections in Punjab. He claimed there has been no improvement in the situation since the 12th of last month when Parliament approved extension of president's rule in the state for six months.

The Akali Dal-Mann will contest all the 13 Lok Sabha and 117 assembly seats in Punjab. A party press release issued in Chandigarh said the list of candidates will be announced tomorrow.

CPI-M Not To Join With Congress-I, BJP

BK2504134891 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has ruled out any understanding of formation of a united front with the Congress-I and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] for the elections in Punjab. The party spokesman, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, told newsmen in New Delhi that there is no question of a joint campaign with these parties in Punjab. He said his party is likely to contest four Lok Sabha and 25 assembly seats in the state.

President Accepts Resignation of Ministers

BK2504165691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The president has accepted the resignations of three union ministers from Gujarat. They are Mr. Manobhai Kotadia, Mr. Jayantilal Shah, and Mr. Shantilal Patel. The three ministers had resigned, following their decision to join the Janata Dal-Gujarat.

Workers Appeal for Release of Kidnapped Swedes

BK2604112291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0905 GMT
26 Apr 91

[Text] Jammu, India, April 26 (AFP)—Swedish and local employees of a hydro-electric project in Kashmir Friday issued an appeal to the Moslem militant abductors of two Swedish construction engineers to release them.

The appeal said that freeing the two, Johan Janssen and Olle Loman, kidnapped March 31 by a militant group identifying itself as the Moslem Janbaz Force (MJF), might help save the Indo-Swedish project and some 4,000 jobs.

The call came two days after an MJF member, Badarul Islam, issued a statement in neighbouring Pakistan urging his comrades to release the hostages because their objectives—to draw world attention to the "massacre of Kashmiri moslems" by Indian security forces—had been achieved.

Mr. Islam, speaking in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, said then that the Swedes were "unharmful" and being treated in a "very dignified manner" but did not disclose their whereabouts.

The workers on the four-billion-dollar Uri Hydroelectric Project, where Mr. Janssen and Mr. Loman were employed, sent copies of their appeal to journalists here and to the Kashmir summer capital of Srinagar, urban hub of the violent Moslem secessionist campaign.

Kashmir's travel agents, houseboat and hotel owners have also urged the group to release the kidnapped Swedes, saying that they are being deprived of their livelihood because of foreign tourists and skiers leaving the valley.

Thirty Swedish colleagues of the abducted men from the Uri project, where work has been temporarily halted, left the valley last weekend on the advice of the Swedish Government, one of three countries to ask their nationals to quit the strife-torn region following the kidnapping.

The others are Britain and the United States.

Pakistan Accused of 'Internationalizing' Kashmir

BK2504165491 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi says Pakistan's attempt to raise the Kashmir issue at the United Nations is tantamount to internationalizing a bilateral matter. Speaking to newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that this is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Simla agreement.

Referring to another item on Pakistan prime minister's statement reiterating support to secessionist elements in

Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesman said such declarations do not change the facts on the ground.

Iran

Velayati on 'Positive' Outcome of EC Talks

LD2504113691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] During a news conference attended by domestic and foreign reporters, Foreign Minister Velayati, in explaining the outcome of his visit to three European countries, announced the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the agreements reached between the Iraqi Kurdish leaders and that country's government.

While terming the outcome of his talks with the officials of Luxembourg, Denmark, and Ireland positive, Mr. Velayati said: This trip created a suitable foundation for Iran's future cooperation with the Common Market. On the basis of an agreement reached between Iran and the Common Market members, it was agreed that Iran's ties with the Common Market should, in the future, continue to expand, and the exchange of delegations between Iran and member countries of the Common Market should continue. In this connection Iran will host two ministers from the member countries of the Common Market within the next two weeks.

On the continuation of the presence of foreign forces in Iraq, our country's foreign minister said: If the presence of these forces is in accordance with an agreement with the Iraqi Government, and under United Nations auspices, we also agree with it; otherwise it would not be endorsed by us.

Leaves for Saudi Arabia

LD2504112191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, left for Saudi Arabia at the head of a political delegation this morning, at the formal invitation from his Saudi Arabian counterpart Mr. Sa'ud al-Faysal. Before leaving Tehran, Mr. Velayati told our correspondent that during this visit he will hold talks with the Saudi Arabian officials on bilateral ties, important regional issues, and on the pilgrimage.

During this visit, Mr. Velayati is accompanied by a group of Foreign Ministry officials and officials of the hajj and pilgrimage organization.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Stresses Importance of Islam

LD2504124791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The cultural attaches of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad, accompanied by Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance Mr. Khatami-Ardakani, met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the head of the Cultural Revolution Council, this morning. According to a report of the Central News Unit, during the meeting, the minister of Islamic culture and guidance presented a report to the president on the seminar held by the cultural attaches in Tehran. Afterwards President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing the cultural attaches, said: You are responsible for passing the message of Islam and the revolution abroad. You promote the thought of the Islamic revolution, which was a joyful event. You can enter those areas, which have always remained outside the realm of our propaganda, to perform your divine duty and responsibility in these sensitive circumstances.

In another part of his remarks, the president, while giving a comprehensive analysis of the gradual failure of the atheistic ideologies, stressed the importance of quenching the thirst of human beings' inquisitive minds with the clear waters of Islamic ideology, and added: When Islamic thoughts are compiled and promoted in a proper manner, they can find their place in the world. One of your prime duties, therefore, is to utilize your past experience to find the most appropriate method for dissemination of Islamic thoughts. Our revolution has many listeners all over the world, who are waiting to hear our message. Both our friends and foes are eager to know what we are saying. During the past few years, the Islamic revolution has created a glorious and proud file of its achievements, thanks to our adoption of just and principled stances; our recent stances toward the current affairs of the region have won everyone's admiration. The world will make its judgement with respect to the recent developments, and it can no longer ignore Iran. They have realized their mistakes, and our duty at this sensitive juncture is to demonstrate the true face of Islam.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for an exchange of ideas relying on the rich cultural heritage of Islam and the noble Koran, and added: We must approach the people, and those who choose the best, with logic; this is one of your top duties. Centers should be set up to answer the superstitions attributed to Islam; you, in your approach, should stress the main essential points in receiving inspiration from the works of the great imams of Islam.

Referring to the importance of utilizing the modern arts and cultural activities, bearing in mind Islamic instructions, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The pure Islamic thoughts are original and will survive, and one should decisively stick to them in practice.

In concluding his remarks, the president reiterated the need for coordination between cultural attaches and the diplomatic envoys as a principle.

Talks With Envoy to Kuwait

LD2504183291 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani this evening received Mr. Hoseyn Sadeqi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Kuwait. Mr. Sadeqi briefed Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest regional developments and the trend of the current situation in Kuwait, and the improvement of the political atmosphere, and the activities of social groups, particularly women, in the management of the political affairs of that country. The president then provided guidance on the expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation with the countries of the region and expressed satisfaction at the restoration of the rights of various social strata, such as women, in playing a role in the affairs of Kuwait. He expressed the hope that as the result of the improvement in the political atmosphere in that country, appropriate conditions will be created to reconstruct Kuwait.

Receives Turkish Official

TA2504192691 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] State Minister Mehmet Kececiler, who is on an official visit to Iran, has been received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the meeting, the Iranian president expressed the belief that the economic and commercial cooperation between Turkey and Iran will be to the benefit of both countries. He said that he supports the development of bilateral cooperation. The two also discussed the problems being created by the north Iraqi refugees for both countries.

Kececiler also met with Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Nezhad-Hoseyniyan. The delegations headed by the two ministers discussed the development of cooperation in the fields of natural gas, electrical energy, and the petrochemical industry.

Commentary Notes Kurdish Need for Guarantees

LD2504130591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1106 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] While the flight of the Iraqi people continues, it was announced in Baghdad yesterday that four leaders of the Iraqi Kurdish front met Saddam Husayn. The delegation was led by Jalal Talabani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and also included Nushirwan Idris Barzani, on behalf of the Iraqi Kurdish Democratic Party [IKDP]. [passage omitted]

Although the clashes between the Kurds and the central government in Iraq has a long history, the factors contributing to the current agreement are the weak and vulnerable position of the Iraqi regime and the tragic situation of the Iraqi refugees, which has been given widespread coverage in the international community. Political analysts in the region believe that considering past experience of such agreements, all of which have failed, any optimism about the current agreement is questionable. [passage omitted]

Considering past experience, the Iraqi Kurdish leaders clearly do not have a great deal of trust in the Iraqi regime. They believe that if the regime remains, once regional and global conditions change in a few years' time, it will violate its agreement with the Kurds. For this reason, in their talks with the Baghdad government, the Iraqi Kurdish leaders asked for an international guarantee supporting any agreement on autonomy.

Some observers say that if the international guarantee requested by the Iraqi Kurds comes in the form of a statement by the United Nations and a number of powerful governments, it would not be a firm guarantee for the future. So, will a practical guarantee be given? And would the international community interfere if the autonomy accord is violated? Furthermore, political circles believe that the problems of the Iraqi Kurds will not be solved with autonomy alone, and that Iraq's problem does not have only one solution called the autonomy of the Kurds. Consequently, some Kurdish leaders have said that as part of their conditions they want democracy and a multiparty system in Iraq, which means a new constitution.

Paper Says Kurdish-Iraqi Talks 'Mistake'

NC2604114891 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Apr 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Saddam's Agreement Only Tactical Expediency"]

[Text] Four top-ranking Kurdish leaders have travelled to Baghdad to hold talks with Saddam Husayn. A Kurdish spokesman has said the visit was in response to an invitation from Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president, to Jalal Talabani and three other Kurdish officials now in Baghdad.

The four-man delegation agreed to travel to Baghdad and discuss ways of ending the plight of the Kurdish refugees now living in precarious conditions in the mountainous Kurdish frontier regions.

The Baghdad visit by Talabani and the other Kurdish leaders has been regarded with surprise by political observers in the region, although Talabani will apparently ask the Iraqi leaders to implement in full the 1970 agreement which provides for grant of full autonomy to the Kurds.

Judging by the past events, and in view of Saddam's political psychology, the Iraqi president was expected to show flexibility in the talks, as he always rules against his own principles as a means of holding on to power in emergency situations.

What is certain, however, is that in the long term Saddam will not honor his commitments and for him any agreement can only be a tactical expediency.

Thus it is not clear what results Talabani hopes to gain from a visit to Baghdad especially at a time when the EEC ministers have called for the trial of Saddam as a war criminal.

What is more, the tragic fate of the Iraqi refugees, and the world reaction to Saddam's recent crimes, widely reflected in international mass media, had set the stage for the proposed trial of Saddam.

Under the circumstances the Kurdish leaders' negotiations with Saddam might result in some degree of temporary relief for the suffering Kurdish people. But it would also imply an acceptance of Saddam's legitimacy, and would help stabilize his shaky hold on power.

As a rule it is not advisable to rely on any short-term, tactical measures in solving the basic and deeply-rooted problems in Iraq, and it will not be long before the Kurdish leaders will realize their mistake.

RESALAT Report on 12 Mar Majles Session

*PM0804125191 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
13 Mar 91 p 5*

[Text] Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles

Legal and Parliamentary Section—The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. Following comments by deputies from Ahar and Hashtrud, the Majles started the session.

During this session some more clauses of the bill dealing with the regulations governing recruitment into the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] were ratified.

Below is a text of the comments made by the pre-agenda speakers, as well as the bills passed by the Majles.

Qasem Me'mari, deputy from Ahar: The role of the colonialists is to keep the Third World economy dependent on one product

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Qasem Me'mari, people's deputy from Ahar. He started his speech by commenting on the fact that he is not linked to any faction. He said: For someone in a regime based on values and based on a pan-Islamic ideology of unity to come and say "I was the one who staged the revolution, I did this and I did that" or for that person to boast is the start of death.

He added: For God's sake look at the issues from the top. If you lose these values, you will have nothing left. It seems that the gentlemen were in such a hurry to eat the stew that they fell into the pot. They want to show themselves by weakening the Majles, whereas the imam said: "The Majles is on top of all affairs." The Shah's Majles had a Moddares, who was a role model because he was brave and had guts and wanted justice. He never compromised justice for expedience. As my teacher Dr Sharia'ti once said: "Justice is the only sacrifice made on the altar of expediency." Don't do this.

The speaker added: The Majles is the blood of the martyrs. Whatever we have is because of the Majles. We have come to the top because of the blood of the martyrs. We were nobody. Whatever there is, is because of God's kindness. To give thanks to God we must put those thanks into practice. On the radio program "Good Morning" I heard people calling in to say: We are about to enter the holy month of Ramadan; why is it that food prices are going up? Why is there no control? I said nothing for a year. On 8 April 1990, which was the holy month of Ramadan, I spoke, but I have not seen those words having any results. At that time my comments were also about high prices. As Imam 'Ali—peace be unto him and his family—once said, what we do is like the work of that old woman who wove her wool during the night and then tore it all up. She did all the work but then destroyed it. This same Haj Aqa Karrubi gave several interviews saying: We have plans. If God is willing and these plans are put into effect, then no one will be able to play games with the people of this country. Struggle against high prices and economic terrorists!

Qasem Me'mari commented on increasing prices, saying:

Unfortunately, in the struggle between values and profit, profit has won over values. Even those who supported values have become profit-seeking. The Majles should be at the center of the issue, but these gentlemen in the Economic Council go and raise the prices without the knowledge of the Majles. For example, at the Economic Council they got rid of the rationing coupons and raised the price of gasoline to 50 rials. The original price of gasoline was 10 rials. Martyr Raja'i raised it to 30 rials; now, without the knowledge of the Majles, you have raised it to 50 rials. This will have an effect on all prices. Engineer Qarazi goes to the Economic Council and a telephone which was 20,000 rials goes up to 1.1 million rials.

In the town of Ahar a telephone is 8.3 million rials, while these poor people have no income. He continued his speech by saying: When you raise the prices so much, you cannot tell the grocer and the merchant to lower their prices. We told Mr Hashemi: For God's sake have courage and keep the people on your side. The regime's freedom of movement stems from the people. If we lose the people, who will we be proud of? Did you fight against high prices? No, you did not. Did you fight unemployment? No, you did not. Inflation persists, although they say it has come down.

I do not see any glimmer of hope for expenditure. When I need something and I want to buy it, I see that the price is too high. I have asked several times to give the people two or three things as gifts during this holy month of Ramadan, to give to the people cheaply at this time of the New Year one or two items whose prices the regime has continued to increase over the last 12 years. We said: turn back prices to what they were in 1977, so that people really believe there is a struggle against high prices. There is no control here. If there is control, we tell the people to show their presence on the scene—these people have given their young: They have helped earthquake and flood victims. [sentence as published] Let us at least thank them.

The deputy from Ahar also commented on migration:

Unfortunately the town of Ahar sends out more migrants than any other area. Some 1,800 people have left for other areas in the last 10 days [as published] alone. If you want to stop migration and you believe in the policy of "decentralization," then take it seriously and implement it. It should not be the case that Mr. Kazeruni, minister for housing and urban development, calls towns "settlements." There are now 150 "settlements" around Tehran and another 110 around Karaj. Now they go and build a settlement for 60,000 people in Hashtgerd and so forth. The gentlemen do not have the guts to go to the deprived areas. Go into the villages as experts and see what they need. They should go and start agriculture and crafts in the villages.

Commenting on an economy based on one product, the speaker added:

In the Persian Gulf it has become clear that the role of the colonialist is to make Third World countries dependent on one product. This means that Cuba should only produce sugar so that, if the aggressors so wish, they can beat it over the head once in a while. You see that in this war, colonialism poured its oil products into the market and the price of oil, which was high and which it had predicted would remain high, dropped to \$12.5. This should not be. If we want to come out of this one-product stage, we should go after other produce. Our ambassador to Sri Lanka was saying: Even if you send us stones, we will send you dollars. Why is it that the apples rot on the trees but you do not send them there? We have room to move in terms of our economy. We should export our material to those areas that need it.

In another section of his speech he criticized the gatherings of religious propagandists in Tehran, Qom, and Mashhad and stressed:

You must be sent to other areas, other towns, and even abroad. If you do not work, Fahd will work. He wants to implement American Islam; so, if you want the pure Islam of the Prophet—peace be unto him and his family—to succeed, you have to make an effort.

In conclusion, Qasem Me'mari advised the minister of oil that during this cold season the people in the town of Ahar have a shortage of fuel, so it is vital to send them some kerosene and fuel oil.

Qaffar Esma'ili, people's deputy from Hashtrud:
Neither faction will be able to take effective steps worthy of this regime by casting aspersions on the other faction

The second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Qaffar Esma'ili from the constituency of Hashtrud. He said: In accordance with the guidance given by the great leader on 30 January 1991, we believe that our people have achieved their power and might because of their belief in God and that they will not bow to the enemies of God at any price. We recognize Bush, who bombed the people and the wealth of Muslims and tested his war technology and weapons by killing women and children and destroying the wealth of the Islamic world, as the most disgusting of creatures. We believe that it is necessary for the security of the region for the area to be cleansed of this creature. We recognize the latest remarks by Bush to be devilish, designed to cause rifts in society.

In another section of his speech he said: The remarks made by the leader of the Islamic world on the glorious birthday of light [as published] had the same tone as that of the departed imam. With an imam-like aim toward the greatest enemy, who is on the verge of victory, they shouted a warning and clarified once again the position of the ummah and the officials with regard to the complex issues of the world. Without a doubt there is no excuse whatsoever for one faction in society to stress these points while the least amount of stress is placed on the same points by the other faction, which distinguishes the most valued and vital views and provides the basic principles of our revolution at this sensitive and historic time. The result of clarification and analysis of the ups and downs of its basic points brings hope to the hearts of Muslim peoples and despair and disgrace to the enemy. Therefore even a small assumption in the face of the imam, the ummah, the leadership, and God is unforgivable and will not be acceptable to our religion, and we will not be able to win the grace of God. Please God, do not let our people and our officials see that day.

The speaker added: While an exchange of views means growth for a society, and while ideas are respected, unfortunately the trend in society is not pleasant. Neither faction, with whatever ideology, will be able to take steps worthy of this regime by casting aspersions on the other faction. There is no excuse for an Islamic society with these special qualities to have its great men from theological centers, universities, the Majles, the clerics, and the clergy use words against one another that would not be heard even from the common people.

From the right to the left, in order to throw the other out of the ring, they choose friends and they compete with

one another in not obeying accepted norms. Do these factions not see the possibility of undesirable elements' infiltrating their ranks?

Is it not the best cover for these people in both factions to become more Catholic than the pope to create tension in society, turning our centers of science and perhaps sensitive decisionmaking centers into places for factional maneuvers? Independence of thought and the blossoming of talents, piety, and issues in the interest of the regime and the people have paled and disintegrated in the face of individual and factional issues. This is when the United States becomes happy. Instead of making its own vile heart the target and instead of informing the Muslims of the depths of its plots, we are busy with one another. Is it not the case that the United States is scared of our power of belief, piety, and unity? I am convinced that the guidance of the leader and the common sense of the people will resolve the issue.

Esma'ili continued by commenting on the Majles positive approach to the budget for the Ministry of Education, saying that this indicated its fundamental importance, and asked the Majles and the government to pay more attention to teachers.

In another section of his speech the deputy from Hashtrud thanked the minister of education for traveling to his constituency and said that he hoped that officials would follow the example of the great leader and the heads of the three powers and visit deprived areas. This warms the people's hearts and makes officials aware of the needs of the deprived.

Addressing the minister of health and health education, he said: The investigations that Dr. Tabataba'i and Mr. Ahamdi did in Hashtrud have still not been looked into after 20 months. Whose interests are at stake, and what are the hands that are active in not allowing the ministry directives to be implemented? The area has a population of 173,000 and 573 villages, yet their only dentist and their only optometrist serve in Tabriz and Miyaneh, while receiving a bonus set aside for those serving in the deprived area of Hashtrud.

He thanked the manager of the judiciary in Eastern Azerbaijan for steadfast action in dealing with several landowners. He asked the officers of the judiciary to do all that is necessary to solve the problems and create security in his constituency.

Movvahedi Kermani: Warning About the Charter

Following the pre-agenda speeches, Mohammad 'Ali Movvahedi Kermani, people's deputy from Tehran, started to answer the remarks made on Sunday by Sadeq Khalkhali, deputy from Qom, in accordance with Item 77 of the internal Majles Charter.

He said: I went back to the tape of his speech where he (Khalkhali) said: It is amazing that so and so (Movvahedi Kermani) asks the people at Friday prayers to come and gather, because what has happened is that they are

admitting into the Majles a bunch of people with no religion and no morals. These are the exact words of Mr. Khalkhali against me. He said that at Friday prayers I told the people this and I asked the people to gather and group together. He has misinterpreted my remarks.

Karrubi: There are two issues that you raise with respect to Mr. Khalkhali. One is that Mr. Khalkhali said: People, come and gather round. The words that you used were to tell the people to be aware and to be careful when voting for deputies.

Movvahedi Kermani: No. That is not what I said. I will now tell you what I did say.

Karrubi: Another thing is that you talked about corrupt and immoral people.

Movvahedi Kermani: Yes, I said that in legal terms the way would be made open for such people. First of all I will say what I said in this regard during the Friday prayers. I said: You people vote and send your deputies to the Majles. Your deputies are your representatives, and a deputy should know the views of his voters. There are some issues that do not have to be brought up in society, but there are some issues that are discussed in the Majles which create questions for the people. The people have their own views on these issues that they have to give so that the deputies can discuss things and vote keeping in mind these views. This means that it is essential for the deputy to be aware of his voters thinking. I told the radio and television to put to the vote of the general public issues such as removal as a precondition [as published] and the necessity to practice Islam—which has raised questions and I have had people asking me about it—so that people can give their own views and become clear about things.

I then said that I did not agree with this part of the plan. I officially announced my opposition and I gave as my reason that, if this item were removed, the law would open the way for the entry of corrupt and immoral people. In other words, if removed, this law, which was preventing their entry, would open the way to them.

He added: Sometimes it is said that this condition will not be removed but that a clearer phrase will replace it which will prevent any abuses. I announce clearly that no phrase will replace it. What has been brought about in this plan is the removal of the condition altogether, and what has been mentioned as a replacement is in fact the remainder of the same law, not what is mentioned in the plan.

Karrubi: Mr. Movvahedi, please speak about Mr. Khalkhali's remarks. What you termed insults and what you said was wrong: Please speak about those things. You are now giving reasons why the opposition says the basic plan is not correct. This will be mentioned at the proper time. I myself want to say a few words. Just as you talked in the Friday prayers, I intend to speak here. Please say whatever you think is proper with regard to the insult either direct or indirect, and also about the

misinterpretation of your comments. But to say that the law is this and that, that it has these problems, that the words they have used have problems—as you said before, these will be discussed in due course. You will speak, those in favor and those opposed to the plan will speak, and I will also speak in favor of this correction.

Movvahedi Kermani: My second question is about your method and that of the Majles with regard to people who have used up their 10 minutes—is it what you have just mentioned, or is this the case in which they can talk about anything they want for 10 minutes?

Karribi: I do not know.

Movvahedi Kermani: Mr. Mohtashami observed the standing orders and booked 10 minutes. Then he came and may have spent several seconds removing doubts, and then for the remaining nine minutes talking about anything he wanted to.

Mr. Salamati, following Mr. Bahonar, spoke for 10 minutes in accordance with the standing orders. Rejection of Mr. Bahonar's remarks would have taken 30 seconds—just long enough to say: Mr. Bahonar, what you are saying is wrong. But the rest of the nine minutes was used on any issue he wanted. Mr. Karribi, if you say that I should not speak, then I will not speak and I will leave the podium now. But I am asking you honestly if your manner has been the same with others when it comes to giving notice on Article 77. If it has been the same, then I will leave the platform.

Karribi: Mr. Movvahedi, I beg you. Please, it is not expected of you to be unkind. I called you the other day to speak and I am calling you now to speak. That is my legal duty. Your duty is to speak. I am just saying that the discussion should not go astray. You can say whatever you think is proper. We will leave the issue open. Thank God, we talk about democracy and we practice it.

Movvahedi Kermani: I want to confirm what I said before. To remove the precondition of practicing Islam is not correct. I would have spoken against it when it was my turn to speak. Now, if God is willing, in the second round of discussions I will propose that the plan be thrown out.

If we remove that precondition, we can never restore it. It will have been removed. What has been mentioned as a replacement for the clause is in fact the rest of the law.

Second, it is possible that it may be said in this regard that it creates confusion. I say that the precondition for Islamic action is in fact piety, justice. It is nothing else. Justice and piety are not vague words and they are quite clear. We see that in all religious decrees the terms justice and piety are mentioned and no one is every confused or mistaken.

It could be said that, now that we have removed the phrase, our people are aware, the Majles is awake, and the people will not vote for someone who will not take his duty seriously. The Majles will not allow it and will prevent him, rejecting his credentials. I am amazed that we would want to—with our own hands—legally open

the way to persons of this type and then tell the people not vote for them. I do not think this is correct.

Another issue is that we have this phrase of having a practical belief in Islam in several parts of the law. In 1982 this respected Majles passed a law that said that a revolutionary guardsman who wants to become a member of the IRGC must meet several requirements, one of which is this: "practical belief in the laws of Islam and the rules of the Islamic Republic, and obedience to Islamic morals." The preconditions for the president include piety, which is the same thing as practical belief in Islam. Make no mistake about it.

In the laws dealing with the formation of Islamic councils passed in 1982 it is laid down that people who are chosen in their villages must, as a precondition, have a practical belief in Islam. This has neither caused confusion nor created problems.

In the charter dealing with employment of Majles staff passed in 1981, for those ordinary people who want to work in the Majles there are several prerequisites: One is that they have to be Muslims, be pious, and believe in the rules of the Islamic Republic; and another thing that is mentioned is that they must practice piety and the rules of the religion, which in fact is practical belief.

Respected deputies, please note that if a tea boy wants to come and work in the Majles, we say that legally he must have a practical belief in Islam. If a janitor wants to come and work in the Majles, he must have a practical belief in Islam. This has been the case since 1981, and so far there has been no confusion about it at all. How is it proper for us to say that the tea boy should have a practical belief in Islam but the deputy who comes to pass laws does not have to have this, especially a deputy who is in this Majles, in the Majles which the imam said is at the top of all issues.

The bills passed:

The Majles in its open session yesterday discussed and passed another 19 items of the regulations dealing with the employment laws of the IRGC.

In accordance with Footnote 1 of Article 5, the command positions and the top management of the IRGC and other jobs that need military knowledge, or those that have direct links with the IRGC's military missions, are considered to be military positions.

Item 8 says: An official IRGC man is one who has entered the IRGC to crusade on the path of God, to safeguard and defend militarily the Islamic revolution, its achievements, and the regime of the Islamic Republic. Following the necessary training courses, he will achieve one of the ranks mentioned in this law and wear a military uniform and insignia.

Item 13: Personnel of the Mobilization of the Oppressed are those who join the ranks of the IRGC in order to realize the "Army of 20 Million." They include:

A. Ordinary mobilization personnel: Members of the

public who believe in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the goals of the Islamic revolution. After a period of training they will go into the service of the "Army of 20 Million" and will be organized.

B. Active mobilization personnel: Those groups of ordinary mobilization personnel who are volunteers. They have the necessary qualifications and are organized following a series of training courses. While taking part in programs to preserve unity, they will cooperate with the IRGC in the missions that are given to the IRGC.

C. Special mobilization personnel (honorary revolution guardsmen): Those personnel who have the qualification to be a member of the IRGC. Following the necessary training courses mentioned in this law, they are organized and they are sworn in. In times of need they will be placed at the disposal of the IRGC on a full-time basis.

General conditions for employment of permanent and contract employees as well as the special mobilization personnel (honorary revolution guardsmen) are detailed below in Item 16:

- A. Belief in the pure Islam of the Prophet—peace be unto him—and in the Islamic revolution and the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- B. Belief and practical belief in rule by jurisprudence.
- C. Practical belief in Islamic laws and the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran and obedience to Islamic morals.
- D. Non-membership in political parties, groups or organizations.
- E. No background of previous membership in or support for parties, groups and organizations that are non-Islamic, heretical, or deviant, and illegal.
- F. No addiction to narcotics and no criminal record that would bar them from government employment.
- G. Possession of the necessary education and expertise for the job.
- H. Adequate physical and mental health to carry out the duties of the job.
- I. A minimum age of 16 and maximum of 40.
- J. A good name, and no criminal record.

Footnote 4 of this bill mentions that the employment of personnel in accordance with this law depends on their approval by a central recruitment body. This is done after evaluations during the initial training session. If necessary, the central recruitment board can give this duty to other recruitment bodies.

Under Item 17 of the bill the central recruitment body in the IRGC includes the commander or his adjutant, the representative of the Faqih in the IRGC or his deputy, the

commander of the joint chiefs of staff in the IRGC, the officer responsible for safeguarding intelligence in the IRGC, the IRGC deputy in charge of manpower as secretary, or the minister. Within the framework of this law, they are responsible for determining the policies governing recruitment in the IRGC and the necessary directives and will supervise the work of all other recruitment bodies within the IRGC.

Under Item 18, military personnel are recruited for permanent posts according to educational qualifications: pre-high school, high school, post-high school, university degree, master's degree, doctorate, and above.

Item 20 specifies: For jobs that require women, the IRGC will employ them. Changes in the location of a woman's job must be made if possible in accordance with her husband's post.

According to this report, continued discussion on this bill was left for the next open session. Also in the open session of the Majles an urgent plan was presented with regard to adding two items—9 and 10—to the charter of the Islamic Republic library. Following discussions, the deputies classified the bill as priority but not urgent.

Pakistan

Foreign Office Denies Hand in Afghan Affairs

BK2504145791 Islamabad *THE MUSLIM* in English 25 Apr 91 pp 1, 10

[Text] Islamabad, April 24—Pakistan is understood to have conveyed to the Soviet Union that it had no hand in the military activities currently going on inside Afghanistan as it had never pleaded for a military solution of the problem and was still pursuing a political settlement.

When contacted a Foreign Office source said Pakistan's reaction to the prevailing situation in Afghanistan has been conveyed to the Soviet Union. "I don't think that the escalation of military operation in Afghanistan where the civil war has been going on for a long time, would in any way affect the chances of Pak-Soviet agreement to enter into direct negotiations to find a political solution to the issue," the source said.

He said although the exact date of the Soviet delegation's visit to Islamabad for the proposed talks has not been settled, it was expected that Moscow would soon indicate the date.

The Soviet Union had already indicated a slight delay in the negotiations because of Gorbachev's visit to Japan. Most of the members of the team expected to come to Pakistan for the talks had accompanied Gorbachev. The visit is now over and it is expected that the talks on Afghanistan would be fixed in a day or two.

Commenting on a report broadcast by Moscow radio about Pakistan's alleged involvement in the escalation of hostilities in Afghanistan, the Foreign Office source said it was

looking for an authentic version of the report but what has been published was based on total misunderstanding and misinterpretation of Pakistan's policy which is primarily aimed at finding a political solution to the problem.

The initiative for a political dialogue on Afghanistan, the Foreign Office source said, first came from the Soviet Union to which Pakistan as part of its policy for peaceful and political solution responded positively and welcomed the Soviet move. The ball was now in the Soviet court as "we are ready to enter into meaningful negotiations with the Soviet Union," the Foreign Office source said.

Talking about the chances of proposed talks, the Foreign Office source said "it is hoped that these would proceed positively as both sides have expressed their desire to resolve the issue as soon as possible through political means."

Letter to UN Chief Condemns Afghan Scud Attack

BK2504133691 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Pakistan has brought to the attention of the United Nations the Kabul regime's barbaric Scud missile attack against the city of Asadabad in Konarha Province on Sunday [21 April], killing and injuring hundreds of civilians. In a letter to Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, Ambassador Jamshed Marker again urged him to use his influence in stopping such attacks that damage the prospects of a political settlement in Afghanistan. The Pakistani Government condemns this criminal use of weapons of mass destruction perpetrated by the Kabul regime against the Afghan population. Mr. Marker said such acts directly affect Pakistan [words indistinct] of Afghan refugees.

Kashmir Premier 'Will Resist' Dismissal

BK2504164991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1531 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] Islamabad, April 25 (AFP)—The premier of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir said Thursday he would fight what he said was an attempt by the the Pakistan Government to force him out of office.

"I will resist," said Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, who dissolved the assembly and government of Azad (Free) Kashmir after apparently losing his assembly majority in late March.

He said the federal government had blocked state funds ahead of elections set for June 29.

Mr. Rathore is a member of former Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), while state President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan is a close associate of her bitter rival, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Mr. Sharif met Tuesday [23 April] with the leaders of most Kashmiri parties but a meeting with Mr. Rathore was cancelled at the last minute.

Mr. Rathore said the Sharif government had also "sabotaged" an electoral alliance between the PPP and the state president's all Jammu Kashmir Moslem Conference.

Mr. Qayyum's son, Sardar Khaliq, had joined Mr. Rathore's caretaker government but was "compelled to quit," Mr. Rathore said.

Circulating a copy of what he said was a confidential letter from Islamabad, he said the federal government had also curtailed his powers and imposed a ban on the appointment and transfer of state officials.

These measures proved the government's intention to "get rid of me," he said.

Apparently flouting the appointments ban, he later appointed nine party members as advisers, an official source said.

Reaction from the federal government was not available, but observers said a constitutional provision could be invoked against the Azad Kashmir Government for defying Islamabad.

Four Killed in Artillery Shelling of Kashmir

BK2504163891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] The Indian forces resorted to unprovoked artillery shelling at Ath Muqam, Lala, Laut, and Neelum villages in Muzaffarabad District of Azad Kashmir yesterday. The Defense Department sources in Rawalpindi said four civilians were killed in Laut and Kundian and 11 injured as a result of the shelling. A primary school was damaged in Kundian village due to the shelling and four children of the school were also injured. The Defense Department sources have recalled that the Indian forces had targeted the civilian population residing close to the line of control in the past as well. The sources added that these acts of deliberate and unprovoked firing on innocent civilians are regrettable and cannot go unnoticed. A strong protest has been lodged with the UN observers on the incident.

Sharif Wants To Maintain U.S. Ties

BK2504165091 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said the government is encouraging the private sector in the health and education sectors for ensuring improvement of standard and services. He was speaking as chief guest at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Shaukat Khanam Memorial Cancer Research Hospital in (Jauhar) town, Lahore this evening.

The prime minister said encouragement of the private sector was part of the government's policy of privatization, deregulation, and self-reliance so the government could confine only to such matters which it should primarily be doing and leave the rest to the private sector. He emphasized that the policy of self-reliance was in the best interests

of the nation and everyone had welcomed and supported it. He said the [words indistinct] policies being pursued by his government would usher in an era of progress, prosperity, and development in three to four years. [passage omitted]

He declared that Pakistan would not compromise on its principles or its nuclear policy. Pakistan would welcome aid without compromising on principles or scrapping its peaceful nuclear program. The prime minister said Pakistan wants to maintain and further improve its relations with the United States and would welcome any aid without strings. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

'Massive Operation' Against LTTE in Jaffna

BK2504164891 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the security forces launched a massive operation against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in Jaffna this morning, reversing the

government's earlier decision to suspend such operations in view of the ongoing school examinations. The defense secretary, General Cyril Ranatunge, said in Colombo that the operation was resumed because of continuing rocket attacks by the militants. An indefinite curfew has been imposed on the entire Jaffna Peninsula from 0500 [2330 GMT] this morning.

Over 1,000 Tamils Reportedly Escape LTTE

BK2504170091 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 25 Apr 91

[Text] It has been reported that over 1,000 Tamil citizens detained at LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorist checkpoint in Tandikulam on the Jaffna-Vavuniya road broke off the detention and arrived in Vavuniya. This is the second time that Tamil citizens have shattered the barricades at the Tiger checkpoint. It is also reported that these people, who are unable to stand harassment by the Tigers, and even assaulted them. [sentence as heard]